

NOTICE OF MEETING

Meeting: General Meeting

Date: Wednesday 21 January 2026

Location: Council Chambers, Georgetown

Councillors:
Cr. Hughes
Cr. Royes
Cr. Tincknell
Cr. Ryan
Cr. Carroll

Agenda Attached

Ken Timms PSM
INTERIM CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER

Local Government Act 2009

Section 4(2) of the *Local Government Act 2009* state that the local government principles are:

- (a) transparent and effective processes, and decision-making in the public interest; and
- (b) sustainable development and management of assets and infrastructure, and delivery of effective services; and
- (c) democratic representation, social inclusion and meaningful community engagement; and
- (d) good governance of, and by, local government; and
- (e) ethical and legal behaviour of councillors, local government employees and councillor advisors.

Local Government Regulation 2012

Section 254J Closed meetings:

- (1) A local government may resolve that all or part of a meeting of the local government be closed to the public.
- (2) A committee of a local government may resolve that all or part of a meeting of the committee be closed to the public.
- (3) However, a local government or a committee of a local government may make a resolution about a local government meeting under subsection (1) or (2) only if its Councillors or members consider it necessary to close the meeting to discuss one or more of the following matters –
 - (a) the appointment, dismissal or discipline of a chief executive officer;
 - (b) industrial matters affecting employees;
 - (c) the local government's budget;
 - (d) rating concessions;
 - (e) legal advice obtained by the local government or legal proceedings involving the local government including, for example, legal proceedings that may be taken by or against the local government;
 - (f) matters that may directly affect the health and safety of an individual or group of individuals;
 - (g) negotiations relating to a commercial matter involving the local government for which a public discussion would be likely to prejudice the interests of the local government;
 - (h) negotiations relating to the taking of land by the local government under the *Acquisition of Land Act 1967*;
 - (i) a matter the local government is required to keep confidential under a law of, or formal arrangement with, the Commonwealth or a State;
 - (j) an investigation report given to the local government under chapter 5A, part 3, division 5 of the Act.
- (4) However, a local government or a committee of a local government must not resolve that a part of a local government meeting at which a decision mentioned in section 150ER(2), 150ES(3) or 150EU(2) of the Act will be considered, discussed, voted on or made to be closed.
- (5) A resolution that a local government meeting be closed must –
 - (a) state the matter mentioned in subsection (3) that is to be discussed; and
 - (b) include an overview of what is to be discussed while the meeting is closed.
- (6) A local government or a committee of a local government must not make a resolution (other than a procedural resolution) in a local government meeting, or a part of a local government meeting, that is closed.

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1 OPENING OF MEETING

2 PRAYER

3 ATTENDANCE, APOLOGIES, AND LEAVE OF ABSENCE

4 CONDOLENCES AND CONGRATULATIONS

5 DECLARATION OF CONFLICTS OF INTEREST

6 CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES

6.1 Confirmation of Previous General Meeting Minutes 17 December 2025

Recommendation

That Council confirm the minutes of the General Meeting dated 17 December 2026 as a true and accurate record of the meeting.

ETHERIDGE SHIRE COUNCIL



UNCONFIRMED MINUTES

GENERAL MEETING OF
ETHERIDGE SHIRE COUNCIL
HELD AT COUNCIL CHAMBERS, GEORGETOWN
ON WEDNESDAY, 17 DECEMBER 2025
COMMENCING AT 9.14AM

Agenda General Meeting - Wednesday 21 January 2026

UNCONFIRMED MINUTES – GENERAL MEETING 17 DECEMBER 2025

ETHERIDGE SHIRE COUNCIL MINUTES OF THE GENERAL MEETING HELD AT COUNCIL CHAMBERS, GEORGETOWN ON WEDNESDAY, 17 DECEMBER 2025

[ATTENDANCE]

Mayor Barry Hughes
Cr. Ian Carroll
Cr. Laurell Royes
Cr. Seven Ryan
Cr. Ian Tincknell

[OFFICERS PRESENT]

Mr. Ken Timms, Interim Chief Executive Officer
Mrs. Renee Bester, Director of Corporate Services
Mrs Kim Williams, Acting Executive Assistant
Ms Bronwyn Bester, Executive Assistant, DES

[OPEN GALLERY]

The Mayor declared the meeting open at 9:14am and welcomed all in attendance.

PRAYER

“We ask that today you give us wisdom to make good decisions to benefit our communities. Help us see what will benefit our shire and give us hearts to serve others. Amen”.

ATTENDANCE, APOLOGIES, LEAVE OF ABSENCE

Attendance:

Nil

Apologies:

Nil

Leave of Absence:

Mr. Raju Ranjit, Director of Engineering Services.

CONDOLENCES AND CONGRATULATIONS

Condolences:

Council wishes to send condolences to the families of Toby Butler, Hans Spinnler and Lindsay Drake.

Congratulations:

Nil

DECLARATION OF CONFLICTS OF INTEREST

Cr. Royes

Open Session Agenda

1. Item No: 12.1
Subject: DES Briefing Report (Remote Airstrip Upgrade Round 9 – RAUP 9) & Mount Surprise and Einasleigh Airstrip fencing 100% completed.
Prescribed Conflict of Interest in the matter due to holding an executive position on the Committee that shares a boundary with the Einasleigh Airstrip. Additionally (declared interest) my related party runs a fencing business.

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UNCONFIRMED MINUTES – GENERAL MEETING 17 DECEMBER 2025

2. Item No: 12.1
Subject: DES Briefing Report (Remote Airstrip Upgrade Program Round 11 – RAUP11) Request for quotation (RFQ) for boundary surveys for Forsayth & Georgetown Airstrip
Prescribed Conflict of Interest in the matter due to holding an executive position on the Committee and my related party runs a contract fencing business.

6. CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES

General Meeting Minutes – Tuesday 25th November 2025

AMENDMENTS

25.11.16 – *That Council receive and approves the option 1 (Existing Floodway/Causeway alignment) and plan of the Sandy Creek Bridge.*

To date, Council has not carried a resolution to award Tender ESC2025-019 which would be considered a large-sized contractual agreement under s224 of the Local Government Regulations. Therefore, it is proposed that Council amend resolution 25.11.16 to the following:

That Council:

1. *Pursuant to section 224 of the Local Government Regulation 2012, accepts the tender submitted by CBD Pty Ltd for contract ESC 2025-019 being Tender for design and construction Sandy Creek Bridge over the Sandy Creek-Airstrip Back Road, Georgetown for \$2,550,857.14.*
2. *That Council receive and approves option 1 (Existing Floodway/Causeway alignment) and plan of the Sandy Creek Bridge.*

MOVED: Cr. Royes

SECONDED: Cr. Carroll

CARRIED

RESOLUTION #25.12.01

5/0

RESOLUTION

That the Minutes of the General Council Meeting held at Georgetown on Tuesday 25th November 2025 be confirmed (as amended).

MOVED: Cr. Royes

SECONDED: Cr. Carroll

CARRIED

RESOLUTION #25.12.02

5/0

7. BUSINESS ARISING FROM GENERAL MINUTES

Cr. Tincknell – Update requested and given by Council Officers regarding Einasleigh Town Commons. Eveleigh Road update was provided during Item 12.2.

Cr. Ryan – Nil

Cr. Carroll – 13.1 Recruitment of new CEO – Ken working with recruitment firm to facilitate the process.

Cr. Royes – Eveleigh Road, Town Common Survey. Outcome of survey to be presented to Council.

8. MAYORAL UPDATE

RESOLUTION

That Council receives the Mayoral Update as presented.

MOVED: Cr. Royes

SECONDED: Cr. Carroll

CARRIED

RESOLUTION #25.12.03

5/0

UNCONFIRMED MINUTES – GENERAL MEETING 17 DECEMBER 2025

9. NOTICE OF MOTION

NIL

10. CONSIDERATION OF OPEN SESSION REPORTS

10.1 Chief Executive Officers Briefing Report

RESOLUTION

That Council receives and notes the Chief Executive Officer Briefing Report.

MOVED: Cr. Tincknell

SECONDED: Cr. Royes

CARRIED

RESOLUTION #25.12.04

5/0

ATTENDANCE

Kim Williams and Bronwyn Bester left the room at 10.00am

Zoe Williams and Marcus Mullholland (via Teams) entered the meeting at 10.00am to deliver a presentation regarding Gulf Savannah NRM's performance throughout FY2024-2025, future focus areas and the Neem Project planned for the Gilbert River catchment area.

Marcus Mullholland (via Teams) left the meeting at 10.43am.

ADJOURNMENT

Council adjourned for morning tea at 10.44am.

ATTENDANCE

Zoe Williams left the meeting at 10.54am.

RESUMPTION

Council resumed the meeting at 11.00am.

CONSIDERATION OF CLOSED SESSION REPORTS

ATTENDANCE

Bronwyn Bester and Kim Williams left the meeting at 11.02am.

RESOLUTION

That Council go into closed session at 11.03 am, pursuant to section 254J (e) of the *Local Government Regulation 2012*, to discuss the following items:

- Staff matters

MOVED: Cr. Tincknell

SECONDED: Cr. Ryan

CARRIED

RESOLUTION #25.12.05

5/0

RESOLUTION

That Council came out of closed session at 11.35 am.

MOVED: Cr. Carroll

SECONDED: Cr. Royes

CARRIED

RESOLUTION #25.12.06

5/0

Agenda General Meeting - Wednesday 21 January 2026

UNCONFIRMED MINUTES – GENERAL MEETING 17 DECEMBER 2025

RESOLUTION

That Council receive the update from the CEO and endorse the actions in relation to staff and legal matters undertaken by the CEO.

MOVED: Cr. Hughes

SECONDED: Cr. Ryan

CARRIED

RESOLUTION #25.12.07
5/0

ATTENDANCE

Bronwyn Bester and Kim Williams re-joined the meeting at 11.37 am.

10.2 Etheridge Ag Precinct Project Manager Briefing Report

RESOLUTION

That Council receives and notes the Etheridge Ag Precinct Project Officer Briefing Report for the period November 2025.

MOVED: Cr. Ryan

SECONDED: Cr. Royes

CARRIED

RESOLUTION #25.12.08
3/2

VOTE

Against: Cr. Ryan and Cr. Royes.

10.3 Cease Use of Harbour Meeting Software

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Etheridge Shire Council currently utilises Harbour Software for meeting governance and after a trial period a Notice of Motion was made to cease use in the November Council Meeting.

RESOLUTION

That Council endorses to cease the use of Harbour Software, authorise the development of a transition plan, and progress the identification of suitable replacement systems.

1. Authorise the transition away from Harbour Software to previous process as it better aligns with Council's operational needs; and
2. Direct the CEO to ensure staff are supported throughout the transition process with clear communication, training, and access to appropriate tools.

MOVED: Cr. Royes

SECONDED: Cr. Ryan

CARRIED

RESOLUTION #25.12.09
5/0

10.4 Request for Tender – Design and Construct the Boardwalk and Visitor Infrastructure at Cumberland Dam

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Consideration of the release of a Request for Tender (RFT) for the Design and Construction of the Boardwalk and Visitor Infrastructure at Cumberland Dam. Cumberland Dam visitor infrastructure construction is a key element within Growing Regions Project, which is funded by the Australian Government.

RESOLUTION

That Council approves the release of the RFT for the Design and Construction of the Broadwalk and Visitor Infrastructure at Cumberland Dam, noting that:

UNCONFIRMED MINUTES – GENERAL MEETING 17 DECEMBER 2025

1. The estimated project value exceeds \$200,000 and therefore must be tendered in accordance with Council's Procurement Policy (ESC-S006) and Section 226 of the Local Government Regulation 2012;
2. The RFT is required to be released in December 2025 to meet Growing Regions Reporting Requirements, enabling contractor selection by February 2026 in line with the approved project timeline; and
3. Project expenditure is fully funded under the Growing Regions Funding Agreement and has been included in Milestone #3 reporting, supporting payment claims through to June 2026 and ensuring timely progression of the project.

MOVED: Cr. Royes

SECONDED: Cr. Carroll

CARRIED

RESOLUTION #25.12.10
5/0

CONSIDERATION OF OPEN SESSION REPORTS

Director of Corporate Services

11.1 Director of Corporate Services Briefing Report November 2025

RESOLUTION

That Council receives and notes the Director of Corporate Service Briefing Report.

MOVED: Cr. Hughes

SECONDED: Cr. Ryan

CARRIED

RESOLUTION #25.12.11
5/0

11.2 Financial Performance as at 30 November 2025

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

In accordance with section 204 of the Local Government Regulation 2012, a monthly finance report is required to be presented to Council stating the progress made in relation to the budget for the period of the financial year as near as practical to the end of the month before the meeting held.

RESOLUTION

That Council receives the financial statements for the period ended 30 November 2025 pursuant to, and in accordance with section 204 of the Local Government regulation 2012.

MOVED: Cr. Hughes

SECONDED: Cr. Tincknell

CARRIED

RESOLUTION #25.12.12
5/0

ADJOURNMENT

Council adjourned for lunch at 12.25pm.

RESUMPTION

Council resumed the meeting at 12.53pm.

UNCONFIRMED MINUTES – GENERAL MEETING 17 DECEMBER 2025

CONSIDERATION OF OPEN SESSION REPORTS

12.1 Director Engineering Services - Briefing Report November 2025

RESOLUTION

That Council receives and notes the Director of Engineering Services Briefing Report for the month of November 2025.

MOVED: Cr. Carroll

SECONDED: Cr. Tincknell

CARRIED

RESOLUTION #25.12.13

5/0

12.2 Eveleigh Road Maintenance Trial

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

This report relates to the improvement work on a section of the road being 0.5km gravel mixed with existing road materials as per Council resolution GM2025/57

RESOLUTION

That Council:

1. Receive and accept the report of the improvement work on the 0.5km section of the Eveleigh Road, and
2. Accept the final costings of \$30,000 requires improving the remaining 2.2km of the Eveleigh Road.

MOVED: Cr. Tincknell

SECONDED: Cr. Royes

PROCEDURAL MOTION

Chair requested that this report be laid on the table until the January Meeting.

MOVED: Cr. Ryan

CARRIED
5/0

CONSIDERATION OF CLOSED SESSION REPORTS

RESOLUTION

That Council go into closed session at 1.12pm, pursuant to section 254J (g) of the *Local Government Regulation 2012*, to discuss the following items:

- ESC 2025- 024 Einasleigh Town Maintenance Works
- Plant Replacement Budget - Tractor Quote
- November 2025 - TMR Project Expenditure Report - Gulf Development Road - CN22813

MOVED: Cr. Royes

SECONDED: Cr. Tincknell

CARRIED
RESOLUTION #25.12.14
5/0

ATTENDANCE

Renee Bester left the room 2.01pm.

Renee Bester returned to the meeting 2.05pm.

RESOLUTION

Council resolves to come out of Closed Session at 2.09pm.

UNCONFIRMED MINUTES – GENERAL MEETING 17 DECEMBER 2025

MOVED: Cr. Ryan

SECONDED: Cr. Carroll

CARRIED

RESOLUTION #25.12.15

5/0

13.1 ESC 2025-024 Einasleigh Town Maintenance Works

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

This report relates to tender ESC2025-024 for Einasleigh Town Maintenance Works.

RESOLUTION

That Council:

1. Pursuant to section 224 of the Local Government Regulation 2012, accepts the tender presented for contract ESC 2025-024 Tender for the Einasleigh Town Maintenance Works with rates presented to Council being accepted.

MOVED: Cr. Royes

SECONDED: Cr. Ryan

LOST

1/4

VOTE

Against: Cr. Hughes, Cr. Carroll, Cr. Ryan and Cr. Royes.

RESOLUTION

Council resolves to retender the Town Maintenance Works for both Communities (Einasleigh and Mt Surprise) as tender documents were not endorsed by Council and contained onerous pricing schedule requirements.

MOVED: Cr. Ryan

SECONDED: Cr. Tincknell

CARRIED

RESOLUTION #25.12.16

5/0

13.2 Plant replacement Budget Tractor Quote

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Plant replacement program is an integral part of Council providing a good service to the community, stakeholders like TMR and the travelling public.

RESOLUTION

That Council: purchase the Kubota M108DC from Great Northern AG for the sum of \$135,000.00 Incl GST.

MOVED: Cr. Hughes

SECONDED: Cr. Royes

CARRIED

RESOLUTION #25.12.17

5/0

13.3 November 2025 - TMR Project Expenditure Report - Gulf Development Road - CN22813

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Council is currently undertaking works on the Gulf Development Road under Contract CN22813 in partnership with the Department of Transport and Main Roads. This report provides an update on the progress, key activities, and current status of the project for Council's information.

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RESOLUTION

That Council:

Receive and note the monthly report for Gulf Development Road 92C CN22813.

MOVED: Cr. Hughes

SECONDED: Cr. Carroll

CARRIED

RESOLUTION #25.12.18

3/2

VOTE

Against: Cr Ryan and Cr Tincknell.

ATTENDANCE

Cr. Carroll left the meeting at 2:41pm during consideration of an Information Bulletin item, due to an existing current application with Council relating to a similar matter raised by Cr Royes.
Cr. Carroll returned to the meeting at 2.49pm.

GENERAL BUSINESS

Cr.	Item
Cr. Tincknell	The Town Common Einasleigh
Cr. Tincknell	Scour near Ergon
Cr. Tincknell	Walk / Drive through alarm system
Cr. Tincknell / Cr. Royes	Letter from Kelly & Gill Sheahan (cattle in town area)
Cr. Tincknell	Dwellings without septic & wastewater management
Cr. Tincknell	Mural painting of water tanks
Cr. Carroll	Georgetown fencing repairs
Cr. Carroll	LGAQ vote on proposed legislative changes
Cr. Royes	EAP updates / corrections Copperfield Dam (URGENT)
Cr. Royes	Einasleigh Telephone Service during emergency situations
Cr. Hughes	An update was provided to Councillors regarding Butchers Paddock

ATTENDANCE

Kenneth Timms left the room at 2.47pm.

Kenneth Timms returned to the meeting at 2.48pm.

Cr. Ryan left the meeting at 3.00pm.

CONCLUSION

There being no further business, the Mayor declared the meeting closed at 3.41pm. These minutes will be confirmed by Council at the General Meeting held on Wednesday 21st January 2026.

Cr. Barry Hughes
MAYOR

7 BUSINESS ARISING

Attached is a list of items from previous Council meetings for discussion.

Attachment

1. Business Arising as at 14 January 2026 [7.1.1]

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Business Arising							
#	Item No	Item	Resolution	Officer	Action Taken	Progress	Completed Date
17-Dec-25							
GM25.12.01	6	Confirmation of Minutes - Tuesday 25th November 2025	<p>AMENDMENTS 25.11.16 – That Council receive and approves the option 1 (Existing Floodway/Causeway alignment) and plan of the Sandy Creek Bridge.</p> <p>To date, Council has not carried a resolution to award Tender ESC2025-019 which would be considered a large-sized contractual agreement under s224 of the Local Government Regulations. Therefore, it is proposed that Council amend resolution 25.11.16 to the following:</p> <p>That Council:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> Pursuant to section 224 of the Local Government Regulation 2012, accepts the tender submitted by CBD Pty Ltd for contract ESC 2025-019 being Tender for design and construction Sandy Creek Bridge over the Sandy Creek-Archip Back Road, Georgetown for \$2,550,857.14. That Council receive and approves option 1 (Existing Floodway/Causeway alignment) and plan of the Sandy Creek Bridge. 	CEO	Noted	No action proposed	
GM25.12.02	6	Confirmation of Minutes - Tuesday 25th November 2025	That the Minutes of the General Council Meeting held at Georgetown on Tuesday 25th November 2025 be confirmed (as amended)	EA	Noted	No action proposed	
GM25.12.03	8	Mayoral Update	That Council receives the Mayoral Update as presented.	Mayor	Noted	No action proposed	
GM25.12.04	10.1	Chief Executive Officer - Briefing Report	That Council receives and notes the Chief Executive Officer Briefing Report.	CEO	Noted	No action proposed	
GM25.12.05		Consideration of Closed Session Reports	That council go into closed session at 11.03am, pursuant to section 254J of the Local government Regulation 2012, to discuss the following items: Staff matters	CEO	Noted	No action proposed	
GM25.12.06		Consideration of Closed Session Reports	That Council came out of closed session at 11.35am	CEO	Noted	No action proposed	
GM25.12.07		Consideration of Closed Session Reports	That Council receive the update from the CEO and endorse the actions in relation to staff and legal matters undertaken by the CEO.	CEO	Appropriate action has been taken.	Complete	19/12/2025
GM25.12.08	10.2	Etheridge Ag Precinct Project Manager Briefing Report	That Council receives and notes the Etheridge Ag Precinct Project Officer Briefing Report for the period November 2025.	DCS	Noted	No action proposed	
GM25.12.09	10.3	Cease Use of Harbour Meeting Software	That Council endorses to cease the use of Harbour Software, authorise the development of a transition plan, and progress the identification of suitable replacement systems.	CEO	Management is taking the necessary action	Complete	14/01/2026
GM25.12.10	10.4	Request for Tender - Design and Construct the Boardwalk and Visitor Infrastructure at Cumberland Dam	<p>That Council approves the release of the RFT for the Design and Construction of the Broadwalk and Visitor Infrastructure at Cumberland Dam, noting that:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> The estimated project value exceeds \$200,000 and therefore must be tendered in accordance with Council's Procurement Policy (ESC-S006) and Section 226 of the Local Government Regulation 2012; The RFT is required to be released in December 2025 to meet Growing Regions Reporting Requirements, enabling contractor selection by February 2026 in line with the approved project timeline; and Project expenditure is fully funded under the Growing Regions Funding Agreement and has been included in Milestone #3 reporting, supporting payment claims through to June 2026 and ensuring timely progression of the project. 	CEO	Tender has been released / advertised.	Complete	14/01/2026
GM25.12.11	11.1	Director of Corporate Services Briefing report November 2025	That Council receives and notes the Director of Corporate Service Briefing Report.	DCS	Noted	No action proposed	
GM25.12.12	11.2	Financial Performance as at 30 November 2025	That Council receives the financial statements for the period ended 30 November 2025 pursuant to, and in accordance with section 204 of the Local Government regulation 2012.	DCS	Noted	No action proposed	
GM25.12.13	12.1	Director of Engineering Services - Briefing Report November 2025	That Council receives and notes the Director of Engineering Services Briefing Report for the month of November 2025.	DES	Noted	No action proposed	
GM25.12.14		Consideration of Closed Session Reports	That Council go into closed session at 11.12pm, pursuant to section 254J (g) of the Local Government Regulation 2012, to discuss the following items:	CEO	Noted	No action proposed	
GM25.12.15		Consideration of Closed Session Reports	-ESC 2025- 024 Einasleigh Town Maintenance Works -Plant Replacement Budget - Tractor Quote -November 2025 - TMR Project Expenditure Report - Gulf Development Road - CN22813	CEO			
GM25.12.16	13.1	ESC2025-024 Einasleigh Town Maintenance Works	Council resolves to re-tender the Town Maintenance Works for both Communities (Einasleigh and Mt Surprise) as tender documents were not endorsed by Council and contained onerous pricing schedule requirements.	DES		In progress	
GM25.12.17	13.2	Plant Replacement Budget Tractor Quote	That Council: purchase the Kubota M108DC from Great Northern AG for the sum of \$135,000.00 Incl GST	DES	Purchase order has been raised.	Complete	19/12/2025
GM25.12.18	13.3	November 2025 - TMR Project Expenditure Report - Gulf Development Road - CN22813	That Council: Receive and note the monthly report for Gulf Development Road 92C CN22813.	DES	Noted	Complete	19/12/2025
25-Nov-25							
	12.2	Eveleigh Road Maintenance - Trial	That Council:	DES	Report laid on the table, Report went to the December Council Meeting	Complete	17/12/2025
			1. Receive and accept the report of the improvement work on the 0.5 km section of the Eveleigh Road, and 2. Accept the final costings of \$ 30,000 to improve the remaining 2.2 km of the Eveleigh road by Heavy Formation treatment.				
		Procedural Motion - Eveleigh Road Maintenance - Trial	Chair requested that this report be laid on the table until the December Meeting.	DES	Report went to the December Council Meeting	Complete	17/12/2025
GM25.11.19	12.3	Sandy Creek Bridge Concept Plan	That Council:	DES	Awaiting correction to minutes (amendment to motion). Report went to the December Council Meeting	Complete	17/12/2025
			1.Receive and approves the option 1 (Existing floodway/Causeway alignment) and plan of the Sandy Creek Bridge.				

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19 November 2025 - General Meeting No resolutions recorded						
		Procedural Motion - Chemical Treatment of the Contaminated Gravel		DES	Currently laying on the table and awaiting presentation to Biosecurity Meeting, prior to bringing back to Council.	In progress
		Procedural Motion	for the above	CEO	Noted	No Action Proposed
17 September 2025 - General Meeting						
GM2025/46	10.5	Review - ESC-C001 - Administrative Action Complaints Policy	That the Administrative Action Complaints Policy ESC - C001, be further reviewed and presented at a future meeting.	CEO	Currently workshopping.	In progress
SP25.04.06		Motion Without Notice	That Council investigate an alternate DRFA Management structure pursuant to the strategic intent of Council's discussion on 26th February 2025.	CEO	AUG 2025 - Draft report prepared for Councillor Workshop.	In progress
18th December 2024 - General Meeting						
24.12.19		14. Flood Damaged Roads Restoration Zone 5	That Council request the CEO to seek governance advice on Council organisational issues impacting on Council's performance.	CEO	AUG 2025 - EOI process underway for external provider.	In progress

8 MAYORAL UPDATE

Item No: 8.1
Subject: Mayoral Update

The Mayor attended meetings and engagements in the time since the last Council meeting, including but not limited to:

Date	Event	Location
2 December 2025	FNQROC Board Meeting	Cairns
3 December 2025	NWQRRTG Meeting	Hughenden
4 December 2025	NWQROC Meeting	Hughenden
10 December 2025	Internal ESC Staff On Call LDMG Meeting	Georgetown
11 December 2025	CEO Recruitment	Georgetown
11 December 2025	GSD Board Meeting	Online
12 December 2025	NWQROC Executive Meeting	Online
16 December 2025	Presentation of staff members diploma	Georgetown
17 December 2025	Australia Day Awards Committee Meeting	Georgetown
17 December 2025	Council General Meeting	Georgetown
30 December 2025	QDMC	Online/Office
1 January 2026	QDMC	Online/Office
2 January 2026	LDMG – Ring around Gilbert River Residents. Mayor, DCS and EA	Georgetown
5 -7 January 2026	Various briefings with NWQROC CEO, Mayors, DRFA Small Business Support	Online, phone
8 January 2026	Radio, TV Press NWQROC BoM Issues	Online, phone
8 January 2026	ESC LDMG Meeting	Georgetown
8 January 2026	GSD Board Meeting	Online
9 January 2026	QDMC - North Queensland Monsoon trough and flooding	Online
14-17 January 2026	NWROC/ESC	Regional Roadtrip
21 January 2026	ESC General Meeting	Georgetown

RECOMMENDATION

That Council receives the Mayoral Update as presented.

9 NOTICES OF MOTION

Nil

10 CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER - OPEN SESSION REPORTS

Item No: 10.1
Subject: Chief Executive Officer - Briefing Report December 2025
Classification: Open
Author: Kenneth Timms, Interim Chief Executive Officer

RECOMMENDATION

That Council receives and notes the Chief Executive Officer Briefing Report.

Update

Welcome to my January 2026 "Briefing" Report.

The month has been consumed by the wet season and Christmas gatherings.

The LDMG has the Etheridge Shire at "Lean Forward" level. It would seem to be 2 events however the State is considering arrangements being under 1 event. Further personal hardships are available through the relevant departments looking after social wellbeing etc.

At the time of writing this report, Council have gone back to "Alert" level. As our system are full and saturated the risk of storms and cloud busts could have a major effect on people and infrastructure.

On another more recent issue, I am following up with a local business and a subsequent health related matter.

Operational Plan Matters

Operationally Council has commenced with the implementation of the strategies set by Council.

- W4Qld
 - Mt Surprise Rec Centre, I am chasing up designs and quotes.
- WH&S
 - The next WH&S Committee meeting is planned for late January
 - The WH&S system is update is progressing well and we are closing out outstanding improvement issues.
- CEO Recruitment
 - We have enlisted LG Services Group to undertake the task of securing a new CEO for the Council.
 - John Oberhardt will be our representative at LGSG and a workshop has been arranged for 6th February
- Operational Plan 25/26
 - After reviewing this document over Christmas, in my experience Council does not have the resources to undertake all these strategies.
 - It is recommended that Council workshop this issue well before the 26/27 budget process.

Projects

I am currently working on the following projects, and if you have any comments do not hesitate to ask.

- **Economic Development Plan**
 - Status of an Economic Development Strategy
- **Etheridge Agg Precinct**
 - Jordon is currently working on this project.
- **QRA Flood Damage – Shepherd Services – Close out**

- **Works**
 - Although the works have a completion date of 30 June 26, with less than 20 items to complete – 95%, they should be finished early in the new year.
- **QRA Flood Damage – Northlane – Commenced**
 - **Works**
 - Northlane have collected all the items and will be scheduling works soon.
 - They will also have staff out collecting data for this new event that we are experiencing now.
 - **Accommodation**
 - Northlane will be taking up the Office building in St George Street.
- **Georgetown Airport**
 - Proactively seeking support to have a RPT flight into Georgetown on regular basis
 - We are getting a lot of support
 - It may be worth doing a gap analysis of the variance between the current airport and that of one that suits a Dash8.
- **Empowering Councils – legislation amendment bill**
 - Please refer to the attached letter from DLGWV
 - This is currently out for consultation and will be considered in the new year.
- **Child Safe Organisations Act 2024**
 - Sounds new but the date was 2024 and it came into effect on 1 October 25.
 - What does it mean, more red tape?
 - We as an organisation have a duty of care for children in our communities (ie parks, libraries, etc)
 - We will have to introduce, policies and procedures
 - We are currently doing a catchup on these impacts and we be implementing them.
- **Developments – Patrick Clifton - RPS**
 - FNQ Regional Plan
 - This is out for consultation; your comments are welcome.
 - Industrial Subdivision
 - Working with RPS to finalise this process
 - Genex BESS
 - Currently working with the consultants on this upgrade to the Clean Energy Hub
- **North Queensland Resilience Program**
 - Combined SES Operations and Training Centre
 - Where to now?

- **GOR – Tourism Upgrade – Griffith, Brent Moyle and Co.**
 - Ted Elliot Mineral display
 - Building works are progress
 - Fit out proposal is in the agenda
 - Cumberland Dam
 - Tender for Design and Construct is ready to go
 - Interpretive signage
 - TBA

Calendar of Events

- **Attendance**

○ 18 th	Board Room	Council Meeting
○ 19 th to 4 th	Leave	
○ 19 th to 4 th	LDMG duties	worked remotely
○ 21 st	Board Room	Council Meeting
- **Planned meetings**

○ 26 th	Australia Day	Georgetown
○ 3 rd to 5 th	Mt Isa	NWQROC
○ 6 th	Board Room	Council Workshop
○ 14 th	Valentines Day	☺
○ 12 th to 15 th	Brisbane	Edinburgh Military Tattoo
○ 18 th	Board Room	Council Meeting

Other

- Happy New Year

Regards,
Ken Timms PSM
Interim CEO

Item No: 10.2
Subject: Second Quarter Review - Annual Operational Plan 2025/26
Classification: Open
Author: Kenneth Timms, Interim Chief Executive Officer

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Consideration of the First Quarter Annual Operational Plan 2025/26 for the period ended 31 December 2025.

RECOMMENDATION

That pursuant to section 174(3) of the *Local Government Regulation 2012*, Council receive the second quarter written assessment of Council's progress towards implementing the Annual Operational Plan 2025/26.

BACKGROUND

Pursuant to section 174(3) of the *Local Government Regulation 2012*, the Chief Executive Officer is required to present a written assessment of Council's progress towards implementing the Annual Operational Plan.

LINK TO CORPORATE PLAN

Corporate Plan Aim No. 5: Best practice corporate governance and organisational excellence. Corporate Outcome No 5.3: Council provides community leadership through financial sustainability and an open and accountable governance structure.

BUDGET & RESOURCE CONSIDERATIONS

Nil

LEGAL CONSIDERATIONS

Local Government Act 2009

Local Government Regulation 2012

POLICY IMPLICATIONS

Nil

CONSULTATION

Inform: Ongoing engagement through community connect sessions.
Consider feedback and community views on Council's performance.

RISK ASSESSMENT

Risk Assessment Outcome: Low

Risks:

1. Inaccurate or outdated data
2. Overlooking stakeholder alignment
3. Resource misallocation

Mitigation:

1. Set regular review intervals to update the plan with current data
2. Establish clear communication to keep the community informed and involved.
3. Conduct a realistic resource assessment as part of approving and implementing the plan.

ATTACHMENTS

1. Operational Plan - Second Quarter Review **[10.2.1]**

Agenda General Meeting - Wednesday 21 January 2026

Corporate Aim No. 1: A Sustainable Transport Network That Meets Community Needs

Strategic Outcome 1.1 Shire Rural Roads are All Weather, Town Streets are Bitumen with Footpaths, Kerb, Channeling and Drainage

Strategies	Officer	Actions	Comp Date	KPI	1st Quarter	2nd Quarter
1.1.1 An asset management strategy to support the monitoring, maintenance, replacement and enhancement of Council's road assets	DES	Council's Road hierarchy and register of Shire rural roads and town streets is complete	Jul-25	Updated road register	complete	Complete
	DES	Identify shovel ready roads projects including opportunities for betterment	Dec-25	Provide written report to Council priority listing of road projects and betterment options	Preparation of the priority list in progress and will be presented in November 2025 Council General Meeting	In progress and working toward presenting to Council in March 2026. Recommend extension due date to March 2026.
	DES	Develop and implement a Shire Roads Intervention Level Policy	Dec-25	Provide written report to Council and implement maintenance program	Maintenance program will be presented after the approval of the priority list	Maintenance program will be presented after the approval of the priority list
	DES	Implement maintenance programs on Towns Streets, Rural Roads , bridges, footways, drainage etc	Dec-25	Develop, provide written report to Council and implement approved maintenance programs	Maintenance program will be presented after the approval of the priority list	Maintenance program will be presented after the approval of the priority list
1.1.2 Develop and implement a comprehensive, sustainable and funded, 10-year Capital Works Program for roads, incorporating road train access and drainage	DES	Implement capital programs on Town Streets, Rural Roads , bridges, footways, drainage etc	Dec-25	Develop, provide written report to Council and implement approved capital programs	Maintenance program will be presented after the approval of the priority list	Maintenance program will be presented after the approval of the priority list
1.1.3 Lobby for adequate funding to enable the repair of the Shire road network affected by natural disaster	DES	Successfully obtain funding and delivery of DRA works program	Sep-25	Undertake review of DRA delivery and provide written report to Council	CDO and Emergency work submission completed on 30/09/2025 and will be presented in October 2025 GM	Awaiting approval of 2025 event claim, then will present work program to Council
1.1.4 Work with regional groups and our communities to upgrade Local Roads of Regional Significance	DES	Advocate at regional meetings and meet with government representatives at RTTG and Technical Committee	Quarterly	Provide written report to Council for outcomes of meetings	Minutes of RTTG meeting are presented to Council when available.	Minutes of RTTG meeting are presented to Council when available.

Strategic Outcome 1.2 Transport and Main Roads is Committed to Developing a Network that is Fully Sealed to Road Train Route Standard

Strategies	Officer	Actions	Comp Date	KPI	1st Quarter	2nd Quarter
1.2.1 Maintain relationship with the Department of Transport and Main Roads to undertake road construction and maintenance (Road Train Routes)	DES	Implement TMR programs for RMPIC, APPC & DRA	Annually	Georgetown-Forsayth Road sealing works on the first unsealed section (Georgetown end)	On going	Currently in technical design phase for Georgetown-Forsayth Road.
	DES	Create an audit of TMR infrastructure in the Shire (eg list of km of gravel, single lane bitumen and narrow/problem bridges)	Dec-25	Maintain up to date register of TMR infrastructure in Shire and provide by email	Completed and presented to Council in early GM	Current audit provided to Councilors. Will be updated after July 2026.
1.2.2 Work to lobby to raise the national profile of the Georgetown to Forsayth, Kennedy, Gulf and Gregory Development Roads and Roads and for additional funding for high priority, widening and sealing	DES	Implement TMR upgrade programs	Bi-monthly	Discuss with RTTG Technical Committee bi-monthly meetings and present to Council the outcomes	on going	Minutes of RTTG meeting are presented to Council when available.

Strategic Outcome 1.3 There are Multiple Public Transport Options

Strategies	Officer	Actions	Comp Date	KPI	1st Quarter	2nd Quarter
1.3.1 An asset management strategy to support the monitoring, maintenance, replacement and enhancement of Council's airports and airfield assets	DES	Implement maintenance programs for airports	Annually	Develop, provide written report to Council and implement approved maintenance programs	Will be presented on June 2026 (each year)	Schedule for March 2026 to align with annual budget
	DES	Implement capital program for airports	Annually	Develop, provide written report to Council and implement approved capital programs	Will be presented on June 2026 (each year)	Schedule for March 2026 to align with annual budget
1.3.2 Advocate for improved airfield infrastructure and services	CEO	Attend regional meetings and meet with government representatives	Quarterly	Provide written report to Council for outcomes of meetings	Raised with TMR and GSD to be part of freight strategy	Raised with TMR for freight strategy and review of RPT contracts. However need a Gap analysis for larger aircraft.
	DES	Monitor and report on reasonable avenues for airfield infrastructure and services funding	Quarterly	Provide written report to Council on viable funding sources	Waiting for a result of the application	Successfully completed RAUPO9 (Einasleigh & Mt Surprise). Successful application for RAUPO10 (Forsayth & Georgetown)
1.3.3 Advocate for improved rail and bus services	CEO	Attend regional meetings and meet with government representatives	Quarterly	Provide written report to Council for outcomes of meetings	Raised with TMR and GSD to be part of freight strategy	Raised with TMR for freight strategy and review of RPT contracts. However need a Gap analysis for larger aircraft.
	DES	Monitor and report on reasonable avenues for bus and rail infrastructure and services funding	Quarterly	Provide written report to Council on viable funding sources	Report will be presented after the visit for the new bus stop project	Report will be presented after the visit for the new bus stop project

Corporate Aim No. 2: A Sustainable Environment of Natural Assets, Water, Waste Water and Waste Management

Strategic Outcome 2.1 Best Practice Water and Waste Water Management

Strategies	Officer	Actions	Comp Date	KPI	1st Quarter	2nd Quarter
2.1.1 An asset management strategy to support the monitoring, maintenance, replacement and enhancement of Council's water and waste water assets	DES	Implement and maintain a water delivery service	Ongoing	Compliance with Australian Drinking Water Guidelines	on going	Restructured water is meeting guidelines
	DES	Implement maintenance programs for the water treatment plants	Annually	Develop, provide written report to Council and implement approved maintenance programs for water treatment plants	In progress	In Progress
	DES	Implement annual maintenance programs for the water networks	Annually	Develop, provide written report to Council and implement approved maintenance programs for water networks	In progress	In Progress
2.1.2 Develop and implement a comprehensive, sustainable and funded, 10-year Capital Works Program to deliver good quality, reliable water and waste water supplies for all communities	DES	Water treatment plant upgrades across the Shire	Jun-26	1. Forayth Water Treatment Plant funding confirmed 2. Upgrade implementation of the Georgetown water treatment plant	In progress	In Progress
	DES	Deliver water security to meet the needs of the Einasleigh township	Jun-26	1. Water security through environmental flows or 2. Water allocation for the community of the Einasleigh township	In progress	In Progress
2.1.3 Water Resources are operating and environmentally compliant	DES	Open of Charleston Dam	Quarterly	ESK has engaged GHD for annual inspection	Annual inspection has been undertaken by GHD in December 25	Every opportunity taken to raise the issue of improving service
2.1.4 Lobby for adequate funding to enable the repair and maintenance of Shire water and waste water network affected by natural disaster or other events	CEO	Advocate for improvement of service provision of water supply across all communities and facilities	Quarterly	lobby with State Gov't agencies on a regular basis	Every opportunity taken to raise the issue of improving service	Every opportunity taken to raise the issue of improving service

Strategic Outcome 2.2 Best Practice Waste Management

Strategies	Officer	Actions	Comp Date	KPI	1st Quarter	2nd Quarter
2.2.1 An asset management strategy to support the monitoring, maintenance, replacement and enhancement of Council's collection and waste management facilities throughout Shire	DES	Implement waste collection and disposal programs at each town	Sep-25	Develop, provide written report to Council and implement approved waste, green waste and recycling programs for each town	ESK has scheduled for kerb side collection and green waste collection once a year for all towns	In Progress
	DES	Actively participate in the Regional Waste Management Strategy	Quarterly	1. Advocate for the opportunity of a regional recycling hub in Georgetown 2. Regular attendance at regional meetings and provide written report to Council outcomes of meetings	ESK is participating in FNQROC - waste management meeting s	Currently working with FNQROC and there is a focus on Used Tyres
	DCS	Effective education program and encourage recycling, reuse and reduction of community waste	Jun-26	1. Implement resources including educational videos and programs for residents, schools and community groups 2. Participate in Nationwide programs 3. Encourage recycling partners through advertising to encourage recycling in the Shire	1. Resources currently being compiled for distribution on website 2. Scheduled to participate Clean Up Australia Day (March 2026) 3. Currently advertising Gulf CAC	1. Resources currently being compiled for distribution on website 2. Scheduled to participate Clean Up Australia Day (March 2026) 3. Currently advertising Gulf CAC

Strategic Outcome 2.2.2 Waste transfer stations are operating and environmentally compliant

2.2.2.1	DES	Service level review of Forsayth transfer station	Half yearly	1. Review and update service levels for Forsayth landfill and transfer station; then 2. Review and update service levels for Georgetown landfill	1. Monitoring is in progress 2. Review of the Georgetown landfill in progress and will be presented in November 2025 GM	Review of the Georgetown landfill in progress and will be presented in November 2025 GM
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Strategic Outcome 2.3 Best Practice Natural Environment and Pest Management

Strategies	Officer	Actions	Comp Date	KPI	1st Quarter	2nd Quarter
2.3.1 Develop Council's Biosecurity Plan in consultation with landowners and other stakeholders to reduce the impact of existing and emerging pests	DCS	Annually adopt and implement works program for biosecurity	1. Sep-25 2. Mar-26 3. Jun-26	1. Annual Works Program endorsed by Biosecurity Advisory Committee 2. Shire Biosecurity Plan adopted by Council 3. Investigate and provide written report to Council Local Law amendment options	1. Draft emailed to Biosecurity Committee for review 2. 1. proposed 3. Not yet started	1. Draft emailed to Biosecurity Committee for review 2. 1. proposed 3. Not yet started
	DCS	Undertake a service level review of the Biosecurity Department, incorporating feedback from rural landowners and stakeholders to improve pest management practices and inform the development of Council's Biosecurity Plan	Mar-26	Completed the service level review by Q3 2025/2026, with stakeholder feedback from at least 70% of surveyed rural landowners and stakeholders and recommendations	Not yet started	Not yet started

2.3.2 In partnership with the community and external agencies, promote and support best practice management of the natural environment

2.3.2.1	DCS	Attend regional meetings and meet with government representatives	Annually	1. Gulf Savannah Project Officers NRM to Council meetings	In progress. Emails sent to CEO in August and September. No response to date.	Recently meet with Gulf Savannah NRM CEO. Also meet with Southern Gulf CEO at a FNQROC Meeting
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Strategic Outcome 2.4 An Energy Efficient Shire

Strategies	Officer	Actions	Comp Date	KPI	1st Quarter	2nd Quarter
2.4.1 Support of renewable energy & carbon reduction programs and Council's carbon footprint	LESU	Participate in Department of State Development Project through Regional Economic Futures Fund (REF)	Jun-26	Review report and seek funding for cost/missions reduction	No action to date	Participated in 2 Teams meetings over the last quarter

Strategic Outcome 2.5 Industry has Sustainable Environmental Practices

Strategies	Officer	Actions	Comp Date	KPI	1st Quarter	2nd Quarter
2.5.1 Companies and industries are environmentally compliant	DCS	Monitor and ensure adherence to compliance standards	Ongoing	Report non-compliance to appropriate authorities immediately	No action to date	No action to date

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Corporate Aim No. 3: A Diversified Economic Development Ensures a Prosperous Shire

Strategic Outcome 3.1 A Variety of Land and Housing Options for the Community

Strategies	Officer	Actions	Comp Date	KPI	1st Quarter	2nd Quarter
3.1.1 Maintain a compliant planning scheme that supports the future development of our Shire	DCS	Implement the planning scheme	Ongoing	1. Planning applications processed 2. Engagement of Compliance Officer	1. Planning applications are being assessed as received 2. Not started yet	1. Planning applications are being assessed as received 2. Not started yet
3.1.2 Review and update the asset management strategy to support the monitoring, maintenance, replacement and enhancement of Council's housing stock	DCS	Review and update planning scheme	Jun-26	Planning scheme updated	No action to date	Review has commenced with RPS
3.1.3 Plan and develop a range of land and housing options for youth, families and older members of the communities	CEO	Implement capital plans and maintenance programs for Council Housing	Jun-26	Develop, provide written report to Council and implement approved capital plans and maintenance programs for Council housing	No action to date	No action to date
3.1.4 Promote residential, rural residential and industrial subdivisions throughout Shire as land become available and demand increases	CEO	Promote residential, rural residential and industrial subdivisions throughout Shire as land become available and demand increases	Ongoing	Proactively source opportunities and provide written report to Council	Ongoing	No action to date, awaiting availability of land (subdivision)
3.1.4 Advocating for the release of State Land for future development across the Shire	CEO	Planning and design for industrial land development	Jun-26	Successful completion of Planning Scheme amendment for industrial/commercial land in Georgetown	Every opportunity taken to promote same.	

Strategic Outcome 3.2 A Diversified Economic Base: Rural, Tourism, Mining and Support Services

Strategies	Officer	Actions	Comp Date	KPI	1st Quarter	2nd Quarter
3.2.1 Facilitate the development and marketing of a distinctive regional image	CEO	Review and update Shire marketing image	Jun-26	Strategy developed and adopted by Council	No action to date	No action to date
3.2.2 Support community development to expand and meet the growing needs of the region through infrastructure, income diversification and advocacy	CEO	Develop a shire profile document	Mar-26	Adopt Shire Profile document	No action to date	Pending the review of the Economic Development Officer
3.2.3 Deliver Growing Regions project in partnership with Griffith University	CEO	Deliver Growing Regions project in partnership with Griffith University	Ongoing	Project delivered and completed pursuant to funding agreement	Project delivered and completed	Project delivered and progressing well
3.2.3 Support skills development (youth, business, industry)	DCS	Develop and implement a community skills development program	Dec-25	1. Learning program developed & implemented 2. Career Development Policy & Program implemented	1. Currently drafting 2026 program 2. Reviewing Career Development Policy for Council's review by December 2025	1. Currently drafting 2026 program 2. Reviewing Career Development Policy for Council's review by December 2025
3.2.4 Career pathway and employment opportunities for youth	DCS	Create entry pathways and employment opportunities for youth	Annually	1. Council employs a minimum of 2 trainees per annum across a range of fields 2. Council offers tertiary awards (diploma, apprenticeships etc) when available	1. Scheduled to advertise 3 trainee programs from November. 2. 2026 requirements not assessed yet	Trainees have been appointed, now working on other aspects of the strategy
3.2.5 Improve business and policy outcomes to support local businesses	DCS	Review procurement policy and monitor the outcomes	Quarterly	1. Council employs a minimum of 2 trainees per annum across a range of fields 2. Council offers tertiary awards (diploma, apprenticeships etc) when available	1. Scheduled to advertise 3 trainee programs from November. 2. 2026 requirements not assessed yet	Trainees have been appointed, now working on other aspects of the strategy
3.2.6 Advocate for the development of the Etheridge Agriculture Precinct and associated agricultural industries	CEO	Investigate and identify opportunities to attract and support the establishment of new local businesses across sectors such as retail, tourism, and support services	Jun-26	Enable the establishment of new business in the Shire	Ongoing	Every opportunity taken to promote same
	CEO	Deliver Etheridge Agricultural Precinct project	Monthly	Project deliverables & milestones completed pursuant to funding agreement with Project Manager providing written reports monthly to General Council Meetings	Project Manager employed and developing funding milestones	Project is progressing well and ESC is meeting the milestones.

Strategic Outcome 3.3 Large scale projects provide a legacy for our communities

Strategies	Officer	Actions	Comp Date	KPI	1st Quarter	2nd Quarter
3.3.1 Companies of large-scale projects operate with a suitable social licence to our community	CEO	Develop plans to work with identified large scale projects	Ongoing	1. Encourage good corporate/community relationship 2. Establish communication links to enable monthly reports for public publication	1. Ongoing	Ongoing
3.3.2 Large scale projects provide long-term benefits to our community	CEO	Advocate for Council's interests in relation to all large scale projects	Ongoing	Negotiate successful social and infrastructure outcomes for landowners, community and Council	No action to date.	Currently working with the proposed Genex BESSER

Corporate Aim No. 4: Quality Social Infrastructure Makes the Shire a Desirable Place to Live

Strategic Outcome 4.1 An Active Community with a Variety of Recreational Activities

Strategies	Officer	Actions	Comp Date	KPI	1st Quarter	2nd Quarter
4.1.1 Review and update the comprehensive asset management strategy to support the monitoring, maintenance, replacement and enhancement of Council's parks, garden and recreational facilities	DES	Develop and implement a comprehensive, sustainable and funded, 10-year Capital Works Program for parks, garden and recreational facilities	Jun-26	Develop, provide written report to Council and implement approved capital programs	In progress	In Progress
4.1.2 Maintain town facilities and services	DES	Maintain of town facilities and services	Ongoing	1. Review and adopt service levels 2. Town maintenance contract awarded	1. In progress 2. Town maintenance contract preparation in progress	1. In progress 2. Town maintenance contract preparation in progress
4.1.3 Maintain the Shire's cemeteries	DES	Maintain the Shire's cemeteries	Ongoing	Regular inspection and consultation with the communities re: services	3. Inspections in progress	3. Inspections in progress
4.1.4 Maintain Swimming Pool as a safe and attractive venue	DES	Maintain Swimming Pool as a safe and attractive venue	Ongoing	Regular inspection	Has been scheduled for regular inspection	Has been scheduled for regular inspection
4.1.5 Establish suitable recreational activities/facilities at water reserves	DES	Construct recreation facilities at Charlton Dam to encourage community driven activity based tourism	Jun-26	1. Develop, provide written report to Council and endorsed by Council to include nature based aesthetics 2. Stage 1 project completion	1. Underway, awaiting Council endorsement and awaiting aesthetics and planton 2. work in progress to complete the stage 1 project	1. Underway, awaiting Council endorsement and awaiting aesthetics and planton 2. work in progress to complete the stage 1 project
4.1.6 Enhance and improve the aesthetics of each town	DES	Develop beautification plan for Georgetown	Jun-26	Council endorsement of Georgetown Beautification Plan	In progress	In Progress
4.1.7 Develop and maintain parks and reserves	DES	Develop and maintain parks and reserves	Jun-26	Council endorsement of parks and reserves	In progress	In Progress
4.1.8 Develop Council's sport and recreation strategy	DCS	Develop Council's sport and recreation strategy	Jun-26	Engage with Griffith University to establish draft Sport & Recreation Plan for adoption by Council	In progress, currently undertaking community consultation	In progress, currently undertaking community consultation
4.1.9 Advocate for funding for additional sport and recreation infrastructure	DES	Completion of Stage 1 of Mt Surprise Multipurpose Centre	Jun-26	Deliver Stage 1 of Mt Surprise Multipurpose Centre	Received two quotations for design and detail costings	Received two quotations for design and detail costings (1 following up with actual details)
	CEO	Identify sport and recreation funding for suitable facilities	Ongoing	Advocate and promote sporting and recreational funding opportunities	Every opportunity taken to promote the needs of our communities	Every opportunity taken to promote the needs of our communities

Strategic Outcome 4.2 An Invigorated Community with a Variety of Multi-Aged Services

Strategies	Officer	Actions	Comp Date	KPI	1st Quarter	2nd Quarter
4.2.1 Review and update the comprehensive asset management strategy to support the monitoring, maintenance, replacement and enhancement of Council's social infrastructure	DES	Develop and implement a comprehensive, sustainable and funded, 10-year Capital Works Program for social facilities	Jun-26	Develop, provide written report to Council and implement approved capital programs	Currently updating AMP	Currently updating AMP
4.2.2 Ensure that services to the community for child care, youth hostel and aged care are provided	DCS	Review and implement strategies for an efficient use of the 'Georgetown Hostel' including afterschool care	Mar-26	Review, approve and adopt the strategy	Community survey drafted for issuing to potential users.	Community survey drafted for issuing to potential users.
4.2.3 Review and implement strategies for an efficient use of the Little Gem's Childcare Centre	DCS	Review and implement strategies for an efficient use of the Little Gem's Childcare Centre	Mar-26	Review, approve and adopt the strategy	Currently expediting recruitment to enable enrolments. Strategy not yet started.	Currently expediting recruitment to enable enrolments. Strategy not yet started.
4.2.4 Ensure that services to the community for child care, youth hostel and aged care are provided	DCS	Targeted youth programs that promote leadership, recreation, entertainment, and healthy socialisation across the Shire	Jun-26	Review and coordinate programs that support senior wellbeing, community connection, and active ageing	Not started yet	Not started yet
4.2.5 Construct care facilities to retain citizens in the community	DCS/DES/CEO	Further development of independent Living Facilities	Jun-26	1. Support Senior Day and Senior Month (October) 2. Planning for Senior Day and Senior Month (October)	1. Planning for Senior Day and Senior Month (October) 2. Currently no engagement activities hosted yet.	1. Planning for Senior Day and Senior Month (October) 2. Currently no engagement activities hosted yet.
4.2.6 Advocate and facilitate the provision and improvement of central and remote health services	CEO	Improvement to health services in general	1. June 2026 2. Dec 2025	1. Completion of independent Living Facility Stage 1 2. Concess plan and funding opportunities for Stage 2 3. 100% occupancy for Stage 1 of independent Living Facility	1. Complete 2. Currently being explored 3. One application received for AH, it is not yet advertised	1. Complete 2. Currently being explored 3. One application received for AH, it is not yet advertised
4.2.7 Advocate and facilitate for improvements in educational services to be provided within the Shire	DCS	Attend schools and meet with representatives of the school and P&Cs	On-going	Attendance at meetings and successful collaboration reported to Council via monthly DCS Briefing Report	Every opportunity taken to promote same.	Meetings scheduled with all schools in shire in first week of Term 4.
4.2.8 Advocate for sufficient policing and emergency service facilities	CEO	Advocate for improved police and emergency services for Shire	Jun-26	Participate in recruitment of police officer vacancies and advocate for retention strategies	Every opportunity taken to promote same.	Every opportunity taken to promote same.

Strategic Outcome 4.3 A Culturally Aware Community

Strategies	Officer	Actions	Comp Date	KPI	1st Quarter	2nd Quarter
4.3.1 Review and update the comprehensive asset management strategy to support the monitoring, maintenance, replacement and enhancement of Council's social infrastructure	DES	Develop and implement a comprehensive, sustainable and funded, 10-year Capital Works Program for Social Infrastructure	Jun-26	Develop, provide written report to Council and implement approved capital programs	Currently reviewing and updating AMP	Currently reviewing and updating AMP
4.3.2 Provide libraries, as learning and information centres	DCS	Review and implement strategies to improve access to library services across all towns, including outreach programs, mobile services, and digital resource availability	1. June 2026 2. Dec 2025	1. Implement at least one new library access initiative (e.g. mobile library service, digital lending platforms, or outreach programs) by Q4 2026, with roll out from all four towns 2. Mobile library arrangement begin with drop off and pick up points in each town.	1. Mobile library arrangement begin with drop off and pick up points in each town. 2. Equipment procured and awaiting arrival before installation	1. Mobile library arrangement begin with drop off and pick up points in each town. 2. Equipment procured and awaiting arrival before installation
4.3.3 Engage with and support local arts and cultural groups	DCS	Review and implement strategies for engaging with arts and cultural groups	Jun-26	1. Ensure 100% expenditure of Arts OldRAAF funding through Council Initiatives and Community Funding rounds 2. Ensure compliance with 5 year action plan of the Arts & Culture Strategy	1. Round 1 recipients awarded. Round 2 being advertised from 1st October 2. Not actioned yet	1. Round 1 recipients awarded. Round 2 being advertised from 1st October 2. Not actioned yet
4.3.4 Build and strengthen the Shire's identity through the support and provision of a variety of events and branding our corporate image	DCS	Support staff, volunteers, community groups at events	Sep-25	1. Community Assistance Policies are reviewed and implemented 2. Community calendar of events developed and communicated 3. Promote local history and cultural awareness including cemeteries	1. Complete 2. Complete 3. Ongoing	1. Complete 2. Complete 3. Ongoing
4.3.5 Encourage local historians to preserve and promote local history and heritage	DCS	Support and collaborate with local historians and community groups to document, preserve, and showcase the region's history and cultural heritage through events, publications, or exhibitions	Jun-26	1. Draft a heritage concept plan 2. Promote local history and cultural awareness including cemeteries	Not started yet	Not started yet

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Strategic Outcome: 4.4 A Variety of Modern Communication Mechanisms Available for the Whole Shire

Strategies	Officer	Actions	Comp Date	KPI	1st Quarter	2nd Quarter
4.4.1 Improve co-operation and communication with relevant stakeholders at all levels of government in the strategic planning of future telecommunications infrastructure	DCS	Advocate for the provision of telecommunication services, telemetry and media	Jun-26	Provide biannual progress updates to Council on engagement with service providers and outcomes achieved	Not started yet	Not started yet
4.4.2 Review and update the comprehensive asset management strategy to support the maintenance, replacement and enhancement of Council's communication assets	DCS	Maintain radio re-transmission services for Mt Surprise, Forsyth and Einasleigh	Monthly	Services are operational	Complete	Complete
	DCS	Assist a commercial entity to introduce local radio services	Jun-26	Options are considered and implemented	Currently seeking EOI	Currently seeking EOI

Corporate Aim No. 5: Best Practice Corporate Governance and Organisational Excellence

Strategic Outcome: 5.1 Effective Communication Between Council and the Community and Across the Community

Strategies	Officer	Actions	Comp Date	KPI	1st Quarter	2nd Quarter
S.1.1 Using appropriate media, promote civil and respectful discussion and participation in relevant issues	CEO	Ensuring effective communication to the community	Ongoing	Regular updates through Infrom & eNewsletter	Ongoing	Ongoing
S.1.2 Ensure transparency of Council's administration and promote awareness within the organization, the community and other relevant audiences	CEO	Review of Council communication mechanisms	Ongoing	Implementation of electronic noticeboards, NEX signage, online advisory services (social media and SMS)	Signs have been ordered	Signs have been ordered
S.1.3 Review the current practice of holding consultation meetings throughout the Shire and distribution of newsletter 'Infrom' to maximise effective community engagement	CEO	Conduct regular Community Connect sessions	Ongoing	Community Connect program adopted and delivered	Program is undertaken on a regular basis	Program is undertaken on a regular basis
S.1.4 Council will embrace exceptional customer service, valuing staff and promoting ethical standards of practice, supported by clear policies and strategies	CEO	Encourage efficient Council customer service while valuing staff well being	1. Monthly 2. Annually	1. Staff meetings 2. Staff satisfaction survey	Currently undertaken an awareness prior to considering satisfaction survey.	Currently undertaken an awareness prior to considering satisfaction survey.

Strategic Outcome: 5.2 Council Operations Support Quality Service Provision and Good Governance

Strategies	Officer	Actions	Comp Date	KPI	1st Quarter	2nd Quarter
S.2.1 Ensure the transparency of Council's administration and promote awareness within the community of Council's financial management and other strategies	DCS	Review and implement strategies for an efficient operation of Council administration and finances sections	1. Dec 2025 2. June 2026	1. Resolve 80% of outstanding audit actions dating back to 2018 2. Implement at least three process improvements within the administration and finance section by Q4 2025/2026	1. In progress. Awaiting receipt of Closing report for P2025 2. Currently progressing improvements based on audit outcome priorities	1. In progress. 2. Currently progressing improvements based on audit outcome priorities
S.2.2 Develop a communications plan to raise awareness of Council's financial management and decision-making processes	DCS	Develop a communications plan to raise awareness of Council's financial management and decision-making processes	1. Dec 2025 2. Quarterly 3. Annually	1. Develop a communications plan by Q2 and implement 2. Publish quarterly financial and strategy updates accessible to the public 3. Deliver a minimum of one community financial and strategic information session and two community connect sessions	1. Complete 2. To be drafted after Budget Review is completed at October General Meeting 3. Community connect sessions scheduled to Dec 2026. 2026/27 Budget session to be held	1. Complete 2. To be drafted after Budget Review is completed for the 1st quarter 3. Community connect sessions scheduled to Dec 2026. 2026/27 Budget session to be held
S.2.3 Pursue opportunities for external income sources to enhance financial capacity beyond traditional methods	DCS	Funded depreciation for council assets including roads, airports, buildings, water and waste for asset replacement	Quarterly	AMP updated and confirmed depreciation in quarterly budget reviews	Depreciation review scheduled for Q2 2025.	Depreciation review scheduled for Q3 2025.
S.2.4 Ensure the efficiency of procurement and stores activity	CEO	Ensure Council operations consider external income opportunities	Jun-26	Complete a rating review and adopt any necessary changes as part of the 2026/2027 budget process	Not started yet	Not started yet
S.2.5 Ensure the efficiency of depot and engineering administration	DES	Review and streamline procurement and stores processes to improve efficiency, compliance, and value for money	Jun-26	Maintain 100% compliance with procurement policy	Ongoing	Ongoing
	DES	Review and implement efficient and effective strategies including annual works program for all Council activities (Shire Maintenance, DRA, Engineering, Procurement, Stores)	Quarterly	Develop and provide a written report to Council an effective works program which considers local knowledge and expertise	All team members have been advised to consult with the local people and use their local knowledge as much as possible. A report will be presented in November GM	All team members have been advised to consult with the local people and use their local knowledge as much as possible. A report will be presented in February GM
	DES	Effective works program and better utilises alignments between funding and betterment opportunities	Ongoing	Implement works program based on identified priorities	On going	On going
	CEO	Implementation of support staff	Dec-25	1. Engagement of Project Officer 2. Engagement of Engineering Administration	Currently undertaken an awareness prior to considering a review.	Currently undertaken an awareness prior to considering a review.
	DES	Review and implement strategies for an efficient operation of Council's Plant Fleet	Quarterly	Request for a written report to Council on a quarterly basis about the use of council plant expenditure and profits	Report will be presented in Oct 2025 GM	Report will be presented in Oct 2025 GM
S.2.6 Maintain a profitable fleet business and manage contractor hire arrangements	DES	Review and implement strategies for efficient use of contractors	Dec-25	Council to do more Working Group to review wet and dry hire contract documentation and process	Waiting for response for sevety monkey.	Wait with Council on a new contract
	DES	Develop a suitable failure management system for Council operations	Sept-25	Develop a failure management system	Discussions in progress	Discussions in progress
	DES	Develop a Plant Replacement and upgrade schedule and maintain the operational capacity of plant	Jun-26	10 year Plant Replacement schedule implemented	In progress	In progress

Strategic Outcome: 5.3 Council Provides Community Leadership Through Financial Sustainability and an Open and Accountable Governance

Strategies	Officer	Actions	Comp Date	KPI	1st Quarter	2nd Quarter
S.3.1 Expect an environment of honesty and integrity in which elected members, managers and staff work together in a spirit of trust and teamwork	CEO	Adopt appropriate governance structures and processes to encourage honesty, integrity trust and teamwork	Ongoing	Conduct team building exercises Implement staff engagement and milestones	Not yet commenced	Not Yet Commenced
S.3.2 Actively participate in the membership of regional development and other organisations in order to achieve mutual regional priorities	CEO	Ensure the administration of the region is governed through open and transparent decision-making and appropriate culture	1. Aug 2025 2. Ongoing	1. Implement multi directional feedback and evaluation 2. Monitor administration and cultural practices	Not yet commenced	Not Yet Commenced
S.3.3 Council members take a leadership role in the community, serve as a role model and provide strategic direction for continued growth and development of the region	CEO	Actively participate in meetings of regional organisation of Councils (ROC) for the north-west and far north regions	Jun-26	Attendance at meetings and successful collaboration/communication to Council via written report	Regular attendance and advocacy of Regional Meetings	Regular attendance is achieved
	CEO	Build the Council's data analytic capability	Mar-26	Establish performance reporting for Council and community	Not yet commenced	Not Yet Commenced
	CEO	Implement performance and action planning across all Council's strategic plans	Mar-26	Implement performance and action planning across all Council's strategic plans	Ongoing	Ongoing
	CEO	Attend local and regional meetings with community, government and industry representatives	Ongoing	Opportunities provided to elected members for regional meetings with outcome reports provided to Council	Ongoing	Ongoing

Strategic Outcome: 5.4 Desirable Staffing Balance that Reflects Council and Community Expectations

Strategies	Officer	Actions	Comp Date	KPI	1st Quarter	2nd Quarter
S.4.1 Develop, review and implement a staffing strategy to the efficiency of Council operations	CEO	Review and implement strategies to increase the capacity of Council	1. Sep 2025 2. Dec 2025	1. Conduct a 'Think Tank' with senior staff and provide outcome report to Council 2. Engage support staff for DCF	Currently reviewing current levels against budget totals	Not Yet Commenced
S.4.2 Council processes, service levels and use of technology provide an efficient use of resources	CEO	Investigate the use of technology to improve and promote Council activities	Sept-25	Review and implement a technology platform	Not yet commenced	Not Yet Commenced
S.4.3 Provide accountable, professional, responsible, timely and accessible services to external and internal customers that reflect the values of the organization	DCS	Review and implement strategies to enhance customer service delivery, including staff training, process improvements, and service standards	1. Aug 2025 2. Jan 2026	1. Evaluate satisfaction through Snap Send Solve platform 2. Customer service staff complete Customer Service training and join LGMA village for networking with all QLD Councils	1. Currently tracking DSS effectiveness through monthly reporting results 2. Customer Service Training scheduled Dec 2025. Five attendances at LGMA villages	Ongoing
	DCS	Maintain compliance with legislation, local laws, policies	Jun-26	1. Complete organisational review of policies (including outstanding reviews) 2. Complete review of delegations register	1. In progress 2. Not started yet	Ongoing

Strategic Outcome: 5.5 Council is Effective in Attracting and Retaining Qualified, Experienced and Committed Staff

Strategies	Officer	Actions	Comp Date	KPI	1st Quarter	2nd Quarter
S.5.1 Ensure Councillors and staff are provided with relevant learning and personal development opportunities to achieve stated strategic priorities and corporate objectives	CEO	Promote a drug free environment	Dec-25	Drug and Alcohol Policy is enforced	Random checks undertaken on a regular basis.	Regular Random check are done
S.5.2 Implement a staff development strategy for efficient training and development programs	CEO	Develop a staff development strategy for efficient training and development programs	Mar-26	Develop a staff development strategy for efficient training and development programs	Not yet commenced	Not Yet Commenced
S.5.3 Manage Council's human resource management (HRM) practices	CEO	Manage Council's human resource management (HRM) practices	Dec-25	Commence EBA negotiations including alternative shift arrangements	Not yet commenced	Not Yet Commenced
S.5.4 Develop and implement organization well-being programs	CEO	Well-being program is part of Council's Human Resources Strategy	1. Annually 2. Quarterly	1. Staff satisfaction survey 2. Survey of staff	Not yet commenced.	Survey to be undertaken and EAP in place.
S.5.5 Develop and implement proactive WHS and enterprise risk strategies to reduce threats to the Council and the community	CEO	Promote and support a safe and healthy work environment in which the importance of family and work/life balance is recognised	Ongoing	1. Maintain a proactive WHS management system	WHS system under review and promoted throughout organisation	WHS system is under review
	CEO	Proactively manage the enterprise risk and strategies	Ongoing	1. Report to Council audit reports and committee minutes 2. Not started yet	Not yet commenced.	Not Yet Commenced

Strategic Outcome: 5.6 Council is Effective in Planning, Preparing and Responding to Natural Disasters

Strategies	Officer	Actions	Comp Date	KPI	1st Quarter	2nd Quarter
S.6.1 Ensure a preparedness to respond to natural disasters and other emergencies and engage in planning activities aimed at minimising the impact of such disasters on the community	CEO	Advocate for improved weather information infrastructure in the region (stream gauge stations, rainfall gauge stations and radar)	Jun-26	Comply and implement actions from disaster de-brief and provide written report to Council	DMRS Meeting scheduled for this week	Major issue during the recent wet season and there maybe opportunities during a State wide Review.
S.6.2 Maintain a compliant, resourced Disaster Management Plan	CEO	Review and update Disaster Management Plan	Dec-25	Review and adopt Emergency Shire Disaster Management Plan	Ongoing	Ongoing

11 DIRECTOR CORPORATE SERVICES - OPEN SESSION REPORTS

Item No: 11.1
Subject: Financial Performance as at 31 December 2025
Classification: Open
Author: Megan Alexanderson, Finance Manager

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

In accordance with section 204 of the Local Government Regulation 2012, a monthly finance report is required to be presented to Council stating the progress made in relation to the budget for the period of the financial year as near as practicable to the end of the month before the meeting held.

RECOMMENDATION

That Council receives the financial statements for the period ended 31 December 2025 pursuant to, and in accordance with section 204 of the Local Government Regulation 2012.

BACKGROUND

The monthly financial report of Council provides a snapshot of Council's financial performance (Profit and Loss), financial position (Balance Sheet) and cash flow for the reporting period.

LINK TO CORPORATE PLAN

Corporate Plan Aim No. 5: Best practice corporate governance and organisational excellence. Corporate Outcome No 5.3: Council provides community leadership through financial sustainability and an open and accountable governance structure.

BUDGET & RESOURCE CONSIDERATIONS

There are no budget or resource considerations contained within this report. The annual budget is provided with the Financial Report for information purposes.

LEGAL CONSIDERATIONS

Local Government Regulations 2012

POLICY IMPLICATIONS

Nil

CONSULTATION

Inform The community and interested parties external to the organisation are informed by the provision of Financial Reports and other information in a succinct and simple format.

RISK ASSESSMENT

Risk Assessment Outcome: Low

Summary of broad and general risks and opportunities:

Risks:

1. Financial reports are covered by many Laws, regulations and standards and subject to public scrutiny.
2. Ensuring our business focus is strategically oriented to adequately and efficiently predict and cover a reasonable range of possible situations and events.

3. To not be restricted unnecessarily by remoteness and access to resources resulting in Council losing its robustness and sustainable edge.

Opportunities:

1. As a responsibility, the Financial Reports are an excellent method to provide information to external parties and stake holders including ratepayers, the public and other interested parties in a simple and easy to understand format.
2. Being optimally positioned as a strong, well managed and prominent Far North Queensland mid-sized Council to make best use of any opportunities and possibilities available.

ATTACHMENTS

1. 1. PCS Statement of Comprehensive Income **[11.1.1]**
2. 2. PCS Statement of Financial Position **[11.1.2]**
3. 3. PCS Statement of Cash Flows **[11.1.3]**
4. 4. Cash Position **[11.1.4]**
5. 5. Comparative Data **[11.1.5]**
6. 6. Monthly Cash Flow Estimate **[11.1.6]**
7. 7. WIP **[11.1.7]**
8. 8. PCS Revenue and Expenditure Summary Budget **[11.1.8]**

Etheridge Shire Council
Statement of Comprehensive Income

For the Year Ended Jun 30 2026

	<u>Notes</u>	<u>2026 Actual</u>	<u>Amend. 25/26</u>	<u>Orig. 25/26</u>
Income				
Revenue				
Recurrent revenue				
Rates, levies and charges	3	3,072,274	2,974,850	3,057,850
Fees and charges	3	136,648	390,000	380,000
Interest Income	3 7	176,823	818,100	818,100
Other income	3	23,909	62,650	62,650
Rental Income	3 8	97,759	198,000	198,000
Sales revenue	3	7,835,233	14,976,394	14,976,394
Grants, subsidies, contributions and donations	3 4	17,611,289	26,236,444	26,162,444
Total recurrent revenue		28,953,935	45,656,438	45,655,438
Capital revenue				
Grants, subsidies, contributions and donations	4	2,924,999	12,340,268	11,732,072
Total capital revenue		2,924,999	12,340,268	11,732,072
Expenses				
Recurrent expenses				
Employee benefits		(4,522,985)	(8,125,130)	(8,125,130)
Materials and services		(28,936,908)	(36,351,557)	(36,255,557)
Finance Interest Costs		(123,649)	(235,000)	(235,000)
Depreciation and amortisation: PP&E	9	(2,975,705)	(5,769,343)	(5,769,343)
Total recurrent expenses	6 7	(36,559,247)	(50,481,030)	(50,385,030)
Net Operating Result		(4,680,313)	7,515,676	7,002,480
Other Expenses				
Total other expenses		0	0	0
Net Capital result		(4,680,313)	7,515,676	7,002,480
Other comprehensive income				
Total other comprehensive income for the year		0	0	0
WIP Cap Exp				
Total WIP (Tsf to Fin Postn)		0	0	0
Total comprehensive income for the year		(4,680,313)	7,515,676	7,002,480

The above Statement should be read in conjunction with the accompanying notes and the Summary of Significant Accounting Policies.

Etheridge Shire Council
Statement of Financial Position

For the Year Ended Jun 30 2026

	<u>Notes</u>	<u>2026 Actual</u>	<u>Amend. 25/26</u>	<u>Orig. 25/26</u>
Current Assets				
Cash and cash equivalents	3	11,140,867	15,303,989	15,303,989
Receivables	12	1,650,662	2,215,566	1,702,370
Contract Assets		5,768,513	5,768,513	5,768,513
Other Current Assets		65,471	70,206	70,206
WIP - Work In Progress		10,005,687	23,557,277	23,557,277
Inventories	13	587,093	528,821	528,821
		29,218,293	47,444,372	46,931,176
Total current assets	2	29,218,293	47,444,372	46,931,176
Non-current Assets				
Property, plant and equipment	4 7	271,256,856	285,484,265	285,484,265
Total non-current assets	2	271,256,856	285,484,265	285,484,265
TOTAL ASSETS		300,475,150	332,928,637	332,415,441
Current Liabilities				
Payables	17	956,557	4,069,923	4,069,923
Contract Liabilities		8,232,761	4,859,527	4,859,527
Borrowings	21	249,216	(6,110)	(6,110)
Provisions	18	1,034,648	885,973	885,973
Total current liabilities		10,473,181	9,809,313	9,809,313
Non-current Liabilities				
Borrowings	21	5,548,573	5,981,751	5,981,751
Provisions	18	2,302,495	2,601,023	2,601,023
Total non-current liabilities		7,851,068	8,582,774	8,582,774
TOTAL LIABILITIES		18,324,250	18,392,087	18,392,087
NET COMMUNITY ASSETS		282,150,900	314,536,550	314,023,354
Community Equity				
Asset revaluation reserve	25	185,131,006	207,733,231	207,733,231
Shire Capital		39,500,666	46,028,410	46,028,410
Retained surplus/(deficiency)		48,058,427	70,235,709	69,722,513
Reserves		9,460,800	(9,460,800)	(9,460,800)
TOTAL COMMUNITY EQUITY		282,150,900	314,536,550	314,023,354

The above Statement should be read in conjunction with the accompanying notes and the Summary of Significant Accounting Policies.

Etheridge Shire Council
Statement of Cash Flows

For the Year Ended Jun 30 2026

	<u>Notes</u>	<u>2026 Actual</u>	<u>Amend. 25/26</u>	<u>Orig. 25/26</u>
Cash flows from operating activities:				
Receipts from customers		13,247,125	20,762,396	21,248,592
Payments to suppliers and employees		(43,777,678)	(45,552,265)	(45,456,265)
Interest received		178,565	819,100	819,100
Rental income		97,759	198,000	198,000
Non-capital grants and contributions		17,072,840	26,039,194	25,965,194
Borrowing costs		(123,649)	(235,000)	(235,000)
Net cash - operating activities	23	(13,305,038)	2,031,426	2,539,622
Cash flows from investing activities:				
Grants, subsidies, contributions and donations		2,859,519	12,234,016	11,625,820
Payments for property, plant and equipment		(4,105,895)	(12,221,222)	(12,221,222)
Net cash - from investing activities		(1,246,376)	12,793	(595,402)
Cash flows from financing activities				
Repayment of borrowings		46,992	(9,810)	(9,810)
Net cash flow - financing activities		46,992	(9,810)	(9,810)
Net increase/(decrease) in cash held		(14,504,422)	2,034,409	1,934,410
Add cash and cash equivalents - beginning of year		(19,152,016)	(10,552,985)	(10,552,985)
Cash and cash equivalents - closing	3	11,140,867	15,303,989	15,303,989

The above Statement should be read in conjunction with the accompanying notes and the Summary of Significant Accounting Policies.

Etheridge Shire Council

Cash Position

as at December 2025

	G/L	Actual
Current Assets		
Bendigo Cash at Bank	0300-3000	\$ 2,400,129
Investments	0300-3005	\$ 4,220,199
22108 Ether Reserve CF	0300-3006	\$ 293,325
22821-2024 ILP and Staff Housing	0300-3007	\$ 4,225,714
Cash on Hand	0300-3020	\$ 1,500
		\$ 11,140,867
Cash back Current Liabilities		
Annual Leave Payable	0500-5300	\$ 756,339
Current LSL Payable	0500-5310	\$ 278,309
Accrued Time-in-Lieu	0500-5230	\$ 44,892
RDO	0500-5240	\$ 16,901
		\$ 1,096,440
Receivables		
Receivables - Debtors	0300-3200	\$ 1,340,889
Receivables - Rates	0300-3100	\$ 374,580
Receivables - Govt Subsidy	0300-3150	\$ 192
		\$ 1,715,662
Payables		
Accounts Payable	0500-5200	\$ 291,942
Emergency Fire Service Levy	0500-5220	\$ 208,781
Retentions Current	0500-5299	\$ 96,721
Current Loan - Forsayth Water	0500-5410	-\$ 54
Current ILU Staff Housing 6M	0500-5411	\$ 249,271
		\$ 846,660
Working Capital		\$ 10,913,429

Etheridge Shire Council
Comparative Data

December 2025

	2025-26	2024-25	2023-24	2022-23
Cash Position	11,140,867	17,500,880	16,479,982	5,653,207
Working Capital	10,913,429	15,302,438	16,160,451	5,163,648
Rate Arrears	374,580	185,751	210,010	106,507
Current Debtors	1,340,889	410,181	946,956	343,228
Current Creditors	291,942	322,431	546,433	97,941
Current Loan Payable	278,309	9,954	7,317	4,491

Etheridge Shire Council
Monthly Cash Flow Estimate

December 2025

	Revenue	Expenditure
Revenue		
Rates	2,500	
Fees and Charges Billings	15,000	
Own Roads Program Recoveries	-	
Main Roads Invoiced Recoveries	3,000,000	
Grants Expected	-	
Flood Damage NDRRA	1,000,000	
GST	-	
Expenditure		
Payroll		560,000
Operating and Contractor Payables		500,000
PAYG-W; GST		209,000
Loan Payments		-
Capital Acq		-
Other	4,017,500	1,269,000
Cash increase expected during the next period		<u>2,748,500</u>

Agenda General Meeting - Wednesday 21 January 2026

WIP - December 2025		External Funding Amount	Previous Year (Opening balance)	YTD (Actuals)	Total Expenditure (Actuals)	Current year budget	PROJECT LIFE BUDGET	%
0400-4150-0000	Land & Land Improvements							
5154-4501-0001	Land Purchase - Shire allocation		-	28,693.18	28,693.18	50,000.00	50,000.00	57%
			25,093.54	28,693.18	53,786.72	50,000.00	75,093.54	
0400-4250-0000	Buildings							
3280-4500-0001	Residential Housing - House 8 Bathroom (# Crampton Road)			50,319.59	50,319.59	50,000.00	50,000.00	101%
3280-4504-0000	Staff Housing Project (SHP)	3,000,000.00	42,116.82	142,232.41	184,349.23	427,662.78	469,779.60	39%
3280-4505-0000	Independent Living Facility (ILF)	3,000,000.00	12,408.21	6,181.02	18,589.23	12,188.49	24,596.70	76%
3350-4502-0001	Forsayth Depot Improvements - Forsayth Park Depot hard shelter to house mowers & equip				-	48,000.00	48,000.00	0%
3412-4500-0001	W4Q (24/27) - Multi-Purpose Centre Mt Surprise	1,580,000.00	4,518.00	4,518.00	787,741.00	792,259.00	1%	
3610-4501-0001	FNQRP (24-25) - Coordination Centre (Gtown)	2,000,000.00	4,518.00	4,518.00	600,000.00	604,518.00	1%	
3610-4501-0002	FNQRP (24-25) - Housing Project - Independent Living	2,000,000.00	-	-	600,000.00	600,000.00	0%	
3610-4501-0003	FNQRP (24-25) - Upgrade water assets	47,830.00	21,958.91	21,958.91	14,349.00	36,307.91	60%	
3610-4501-0004	FNQRP (24-25) - Backup power	50,000.00	35,124.94	35,124.94	15,000.00	50,124.94	70%	
4011-4501-0000	Georgetown Streets - Georgetown Streetscaping & chairs			3,877.20	1,582.15	5,459.35	16,122.80	20,000.00
5080-4500-0001	Forsayth Transfer Station - Chemical Shed				-	40,000.00	40,000.00	0%
6020-4500-0001	Little Gems Childrens Centre - Renovations including additional nursery space and staff area			25,100.00	25,100.00	60,000.00	60,000.00	42%
			1,260,199.06	226,379.01	1,486,578.07	2,671,064.07	3,931,263.13	
0400-4255-0000	Growing Regions				-			
6010-4501-0000	Terrestrial Centre Extension	4,400,000.00	51,139.25	1,141,500.09	1,192,639.34	1,452,927.81	1,504,067.06	79%
6010-4502-0000	Cumberland Dam	1,880,000.00	58,252.08	59,266.28	117,518.36	1,016,459.87	1,074,711.95	11%
6010-4503-0000	Einasleigh Peoples' Museum	1,100,000.00	50,953.00	50,953.00	101,906.00	586,302.49	637,255.49	16%
6010-4504-0000	Our Elders Trail	855,000.00	50,953.00	51,465.04	102,418.04	450,042.63	500,995.63	20%
		211,297.33	1,303,184.41	1,514,481.74	3,505,732.80	3,717,030.13		
0400-4350-0000	Other Structures				-			
3135-4500-0001	Einasleigh - Supply and installation of water tanks (2 x 6000 gal/23000l) for firefighting purpose		-	13,700.31	13,700.31	50,000.00	50,000.00	27%
3620-4506-0001	RAUP + FNQRP- Airstrip Einasleigh & Mt Surprise - Fencing	900,000.00	160,813.18	756,508.97	917,322.15	881,097.38	900,000.00	102%
5151-4500-0000	NWMP Round 2 - Walking path, signage, TO engagement, bush tucker	120,000.00	65,218.15	55,585.25	120,803.40	54,782.00	120,000.15	101%
5151-4502-0001	All Towns - Electronic Community Notice Boards (SMS)		49,360.15	24,680.06	74,040.21	82,639.85	132,000.00	56%
5151-4502-0002	All Towns - Common Boundary Fencing (shared cost scheme)			13,032.11	13,032.11	120,000.00	120,000.00	11%
5151-4503-0001	R2R - Washdown Bay - Electrical Connection	90,000.00	-	41,461.27	41,461.27	90,000.00	90,000.00	46%
5151-4503-0002	R2R - Washdown Bay - Avdata System	4,800.00	-	3,795.46	3,795.46	4,800.00	4,800.00	79%
5151-4503-0003	R2R - Washdown Bay - Pump & Water Tank	18,000.00	-	12,299.00	12,299.00	18,000.00	18,000.00	68%
5151-4504-0001	Georgetown - Truckwash Platform		-	7,028.00	7,028.00	60,000.00	60,000.00	12%
5151-4504-0002	HVSPP - Wash Down Facility	600,000.00	813,708.30	-	813,708.30	49,091.70	862,800.00	94%
5151-4505-0001	Parks & Gardens - Burtons Reserve - pool fence		-		-	10,000.00	10,000.00	0%
5151-4508-0000	NWMP Round 5 - Design & construction	200,000.00	68,881.43	97,329.06	166,210.49	-	200,000.00	83%
5152-4500-0001 to 5152-4500-0003	Forsayth - Seating, Signage & Fitness Equipment		-	31,984.72	31,984.72	50,000.00	50,000.00	64%
5152-4500-0004	Forsayth - Learning Hubs		-	4,519.16	4,519.16	10,000.00	10,000.00	45%
5152-4500-0005	Walking track - Forsayth to Charleston Dam - signs and basic walkway		-	-	-	25,000.00	25,000.00	0%
5154-4500-0000	Mt Surprise - Learning Hubs		-	4,519.18	4,519.18	10,000.00	10,000.00	45%

Agenda General Meeting - Wednesday 21 January 2026

WIP - December 2025		External Funding Amount	Previous Year (Opening balance)	YTD (Actuals)	Total Expenditure (Actuals)	Current year budget	PROJECT LIFE BUDGET	%
5163-4500-0001	Cemeteries - Improvements		-	-	12,487.00	12,487.00	0%	
5167-4500-0000	Gilbert River Cemetery - Cemetery Columbarium Wall		-	14,040.94	14,040.94	14,100.00	14,100.00	100%
6030-4500-0000	DOE - Student Hostel - Soft fall area, external power supply and landscaping	44,099.00		62,166.72	62,166.72	50,725.00	94,824.00	66%
				1,730,845.65	1,161,085.37	2,891,931.02	1,592,722.93	3,356,875.59
0400-4450-00000	Fleet Plant & Equipment							
25-26 replacements (remaining)						2,825,076.68	2,825,076.68	0%
4150-4500-0001	Camp accommodation		2,926.66	2,926.66		2,915.00	2,915.00	100%
4150-4500-00000	BT50s x 12		813,234.02	813,234.02	813,234.02	813,234.02	813,234.02	100%
	Plant sales - trades		-	370,909.08	-	370,909.08	-	370,909.08 100%
4150-4500-3175	Zero turn mower - 72 inch		33,241.92	33,241.92	33,241.92	33,241.92	33,241.92	100%
4150-4500-3170	Zero turn mower - 60 inch		28,471.11	28,471.11	28,471.11	28,471.11	28,471.11	100%
4150-4500-7935	Boat & trailer	20,084.57		20,084.57	40,169.14	16,570.43	40,000.00	100%
4150-4500-7940	Generator 37kVA		23,292.80	23,292.80	23,292.80	23,292.80	23,292.80	100%
4150-4500-8861	Satellite Kit #7		3,225.85	3,225.85	3,225.85	3,225.85	3,225.85	100%
4150-4500-8862	Satellite Kit #8		3,225.85	3,225.85	3,225.85	3,225.85	3,225.85	100%
4150-4500-8863	Satellite Kit #9		3,225.85	3,225.85	3,225.85	3,225.85	3,225.85	100%
		20,084.57	560,019.55	580,104.12	3,381,570.43	3,405,000.00		
0400-4550-0000	Furniture & Other Equipment							
2060-4500-0000	Mt Surprise & Einasleigh - Projector/screen/teams/zoom capabilities		-	-	10,000.00	10,000.00	0%	
			-	-	10,000.00	10,000.00		
0400-4650-0000	Roads Infrastructure							
3620-4505-0003	Design and reseal for Hayman		-	-	42,100.00	42,100.00	0%	
3620-4505-0016	LCRI Phase 4 - Dust pads Einasleigh	50,000.00	5,573.64	47,103.46	52,677.10	47,113.36	52,687.00	100%
4011-4500-0000	R2R 24-25 - Hayman Street Drainage	90,000.00	4,317.20	123.09	4,440.29	85,682.80	90,000.00	5%
4011-4502-0000	QRA - Crucial Access - Sandy Creek culverts (back access road)	3,000,000.00	-	-	900,000.00	900,000.00	0%	
4011-4504-0000	R2R 25-26 - Patricia Road Upgrade - survey & design		5,381.44		5,381.44		5,381.44	100%
4013-4500-0001	Einasleigh - Stormwater drainage works in Einasleigh (200 m x 1 mx 1 m deep including one pipe culvert) Baroota St/Night Cart Lane SEGPAR 44087		-	28,081.88	28,081.88	120,000.00	120,000.00	23%
4014-4500-0000	R2R - Mt Surprise Remedial Street drainage	60,000.00	18,026.21	44,321.45	62,347.66	60,000.00	60,000.00	104%
4020-4501-0000	Sign replacement		-	6,335.69	6,335.69	366,600.00	366,600.00	2%
4020-4550-0000	Road realignments (Percyvale Road)	40,000.00	5,672.60		5,672.60	34,327.40	40,000.00	14%
4020-4580-0000	NWQEDS10 - Caseys Rest Lookout	100,000.00	10,441.60	1,957.80	12,399.40	89,558.40	100,000.00	12%
4060-4500-0018	R2R 24-25 - Replacement of 4 nos - 450 mm diameter Pipe culvert in Gilberton road at chainage 51.80 km	16,500.00	-	-	16,500.00	16,500.00	0%	
4062-4501-0000	Reseals		-	574,206.73	574,206.73	791,678.00	791,678.00	73%
4020-4502-0000	Shire Roads Capital Expenditure & Betterment - Roads, Drainage & Culverts		-	84,481.58	84,481.58	606,847.00	606,847.00	14%
tba	R2R allocation - 25-26	39,409.00	-	-	-	-	39,409.00	0%
tba	R2R 25-26 - Reconstruction and sealing work - Oak Park Road, Bagstowe (Ch 55.2km-55.7km - 6m wide)	246,000.00		-	-	-	246,000.00	0%
tba	R2R 25-26 - Reconstruction and sealing work - Oak Park Road, Oak Park Road Homestead (Ch 23.8km-25.3km - 6m wide)	600,000.00		-	-	-	600,000.00	0%
tba	R2R 25-26 - Rehabilitation open drainage and pipe crossing - Hayman Street, Georgetown	150,000.00		-	-	-	150,000.00	0%
tba	R2R 25-26 - Resealing work 26km to 27.8km and 57.910 km to 64.110 km	178,285.00		-	-	-	178,285.00	0%
		2,525,184.60	786,611.68	3,311,796.28	3,100,406.96	6,881,259.35	6,881,259.35	48%

Agenda General Meeting - Wednesday 21 January 2026

WIP - December 2025		External Funding Amount	Previous Year (Opening balance)	YTD (Actuals)	Total Expenditure (Actuals)	Current year budget	PROJECT LIFE BUDGET	%
0400-4750-0000	Water Infrastructure							
4320-4500-0002	Georgetown Water - Replacement of Meters	8,063.95		8,063.95	5,000.00	13,063.95	62%	
4320-4500-0004	Georgetown Water - New Water Connections	9,192.43	2,355.98	11,548.41	5,000.00	14,192.43	81%	
4320-4501-0001	Water - Extend water main to Georgetown Cemetery			-	29,000.00	29,000.00	0%	
4320-4501-0002	Water - Georgetown - Main extention - Replace water main Low Street			-	85,000.00	85,000.00	0%	
4340-4500-0002	Forsayth Water - Replacement of meters	3,412.41		3,412.41	-	3,412.41	100%	
4340-4500-0004	Forsayth Water - New Water Connection	3,702.09		3,702.09	4,000.00	7,702.09	48%	
4340-4504-0003	Water - Forsayth Sixth Street Main upgrade			-	31,700.00	31,700.00	0%	
4340-4504-0004	Water - Forsayth WTP Replace media filters		37,565.66	37,565.66	42,000.00	42,000.00	89%	
4500-4506-0001	Charleston Dam Rec Area - Survey Design Playground/ Amenities Fencing	89,660.03	89,660.03	273,339.97	363,000.00	25%		
		- 127,087.52	39,921.64	167,009.16	475,039.97	602,127.49	28%	
		5,899,792.27	4,105,894.84	10,005,687.11	14,786,537.16	21,978,649.23	46%	

Agenda General Meeting - Wednesday 21 January 2026

General Ledger2023.6.13.1

Revenue and Expenditure Summary
(Accounts: 0300-0001-0000 to 5014-2400-0000. All report groups. 52% of year elapsed. To Level 4. Excludes committed costs)
Etheridge Shire Council (Budget for full year) Financial Year Ending 2026 Printed(MEGAN): 06-01-2026 10:35:17 AM

	REVENUE			EXPENDITURE			SURPLUS/(DEFICIENCY)		
	31 Jan 2026	Budget	31 Jan 2026	Budget	31 Jan 2026	Budget	31 Jan 2026	Budget	31 Jan 2026
1000-0001 Governance									
1000-0002 Elected Members	0.00	0%	0	253,857.41	49%	513,379	(253,857.41)	49%	(513,379)
1010-0002 Governance	0.00	0%	0	670,537.18	80%	836,000	(670,537.18)	80%	(836,000)
1020-0002 Economic Development	179,090.91	4%	4,110,000	300,300.05	120%	250,000	(121,209.14)	-3%	3,860,000
1030-0002 Civic Receptions and Events	30,000.00	---%	0	0.00	0%	0	30,000.00	---%	0
1040-0002 Regulatory Services									
1040-0003 Town Planning	1,100.00	11%	10,000	26,334.82	44%	60,000	(25,234.82)	50%	(50,000)
1041-0003 Building Control	1,178.70	59%	2,000	111.47	1%	20,000	1,067.23	-6%	(18,000)
1042-0003 Environmental Health	3,232.27	36%	9,000	9,069.05	30%	30,000	(5,836.78)	28%	(21,000)
1043-0003 Local Laws	0.00	0%	0	0.00	0%	5,100	0.00	0%	(5,100)
1040-0002 Regulatory Services									
	5,510.97	26%	21,000	35,515.34	31%	115,100	(30,004.37)	32%	(94,100)
1050-0002 Disaster Management	68,199.29	2%	3,535,000	63,856.65	41%	153,916	4,342.64	0%	3,381,084
1060-0002 WH&S	0.00	0%	0	151,567.95	48%	314,400	(151,567.95)	48%	(314,400)
1000-0001 Governance									
	282,801.17	4%	7,666,000	1,475,634.58	68%	2,182,795	(1,192,833.41)	-22%	5,483,205
2000-0001 Corporate									
2000-0002 General Rates	2,765,812.89	101%	2,739,000	364,736.26	77%	471,000	2,401,076.63	106%	2,268,000
2010-0002 General Administration	1,817,225.84	44%	4,115,958	1,415,861.70	47%	3,021,531	401,364.14	37%	1,094,427
2020-0002 Employee Services	1,604,565.29	73%	2,200,000	1,159,623.28	52%	2,235,000	444,946.01	<999%	(35,000)
2030-0002 ICT	0.00	0%	0	175,682.33	48%	369,600	(175,682.33)	48%	(369,600)
2040-0002 Broadcasting Services	0.00	0%	0	2,827.05	43%	6,550	(2,827.05)	43%	(6,550)
2000-0001 Corporate									
	6,187,608.02	68%	9,054,958	3,118,730.62	51%	6,103,681	3,068,877.40	104%	2,951,277
3000-0001 Community									
3000-0002 Commercial Rental Properties									
3000-0003 Staff housing	68,934.00	49%	140,000	318,861.67	90%	355,626	(249,927.67)	116%	(215,626)
3002-0003 Savannah House	2,925.00	29%	10,000	4,981.14	17%	29,305	(2,056.14)	11%	(19,305)
3003-0003 Demountable Office (Mary St)	25,000.00	52%	48,000	1,190.92	20%	6,000	23,809.08	57%	42,000
3004-0003 Independent Living	1,200,900.00	95%	1,270,000	91,927.46	42%	220,000	1,108,972.54	106%	1,050,000
3000-0002 Commercial Rental Properties									
	1,297,759.00	88%	1,468,000	416,961.19	68%	610,931	880,797.81	103%	857,069
3010-0002 Libraries	26,000.00	433%	6,000	14,489.25	48%	30,139	11,510.75	-48%	(24,139)
3020-0002 Community Development	26,250.00	100%	26,250	117,170.26	35%	333,400	(90,920.26)	30%	(307,150)
3030-0002 Sport & Recreation	100,000.00	50%	201,000	174,617.55	35%	496,561	(74,617.55)	25%	(295,561)
3040-0002 Halls	905.00	18%	5,000	66,512.44	19%	343,299	(65,607.44)	19%	(338,299)
3050-0002 Medical Centres	0.00	0%	0	11,657.06	24%	49,556	(11,657.06)	24%	(49,556)

Agenda General Meeting - Wednesday 21 January 2026

General Ledger 2023.6.13.1
 (Accounts: 0300-0001-0000 to 5014-2400-0000. All report groups. 52% of year elapsed. To Level 4. Excludes committed costs)
 Etheridge Shire Council (Budget for full year) Printed (MEGAN): 06-01-2026 10:35:17 AM

General Ledger 2023.6.13.1											Page - 2
(Accounts: 0300-0001-0000 to 5014-2400-0000. All report groups. 52% of year elapsed. To Level 4. Excludes committed costs)											
Etheridge Shire Council (Budget for full year)											Printed (MEGAN): 06-01-2026 10:35:17 AM
----- REVENUE -----											----- EXPENDITURE -----
		31 Jan 2026	Budget		31 Jan 2026	Budget		31 Jan 2026	Budget		----- SURPLUS/(DEFICIENCY) -----
3060-0002	Aerodromes	225,000.00	29%	765,000	141,621.74	47%	300,186	83,378.26	18%	464,814	
3070-0002	Terrestrial Centre	62,675.73	61%	103,500	254,497.29	41%	621,988	(191,821.56)	37%	(518,488)	
3080-0002	Little Gems Child Care Centre	71,512.52	51%	139,000	324,183.38	61%	533,360	(252,670.86)	64%	(394,360)	
3090-0002	Georgetown Student Hostel	32,558.17	20%	166,000	193,206.15	69%	281,582	(160,647.98)	139%	(115,582)	
3100-0002	Cemeteries	2,418.00	81%	3,000	28,669.66	41%	70,001	(26,251.66)	39%	(67,001)	
3000-0001	Community	1,845,078.42	64%	2,882,750	1,743,585.97	47%	3,671,003	101,492.45	-13%	(788,253)	
4000-0001	Infrastructure Services										
4000-0002	Parks Gardens Reserves and Grounds	2,600.40	130%	2,000	308,578.08	48%	644,253	(305,977.68)	48%	(642,253)	
4010-0002	Rural Lands Protection	16,787.23	44%	38,000	201,508.28	46%	439,209	(184,721.05)	46%	(401,209)	
4020-0002	Street Lighting	0.00	0%	0	3,512.58	20%	17,834	(3,512.58)	20%	(17,834)	
4030-0002	Roads										
4030-0003	Shire Roads	1,946,713.50	47%	4,144,534	2,433,153.67	60%	4,052,162	(486,440.17)	-527%	92,372	
4031-0003	Town Streets	0.00	0%	0	99,030.20	15%	654,542	(99,030.20)	15%	(654,542)	
4032-0003	Flood Damage	15,000,987.28	71%	21,092,120	20,973,052.15	105%	20,000,000	(5,972,064.87)	-547%	1,092,120	
4030-0002	Roads	16,947,700.78	67%	25,236,654	23,505,236.02	95%	24,706,704	(6,557,535.24)	<999%	529,950	
4040-0002	Depot and Stores	76,770.43	61%	125,000	465,053.77	41%	1,128,254	(388,283.34)	39%	(1,003,254)	
4050-0002	Recoverable Works										
4050-0003	Private Works	69,585.66	32%	220,000	43,320.33	24%	180,000	26,265.33	66%	40,000	
4051-0003	DTMR	7,727,812.62	53%	14,716,394	10,233,736.60	70%	14,716,394	(2,505,923.98)	---	0	
4050-0002	Recoverable Works	7,797,398.28	52%	14,936,394	10,277,056.93	69%	14,896,394	(2,479,658.65)	<999%	40,000	
4060-0002	Plant Operations	5,750,070.99	94%	6,120,000	2,309,067.26	62%	3,733,023	3,441,003.73	144%	2,386,977	
4000-0001	Infrastructure Services	30,591,328.11	66%	46,458,048	37,070,012.92	81%	45,565,671	(6,478,684.81)	-726%	892,377	
5000-0001	Utilities										
5000-0002	Water Supply										
5000-0003	Georgetown WTP & Reticulation	362,294.93	83%	434,000	489,109.99	50%	974,909	(126,815.06)	23%	(540,909)	
5001-0003	Forsayth WTP & Reticulation	89,169.84	64%	140,200	179,998.02	50%	357,000	(90,828.18)	42%	(216,800)	
5002-0003	Charleston Dam	0.00	0%	0	6,574.52	5%	120,000	(6,574.52)	5%	(120,000)	
5000-0002	Water Supply	451,464.77	79%	574,200	675,682.53	47%	1,451,909	(224,217.76)	26%	(877,709)	
5010-0002	Waste Management										
5010-0003	Georgetown	186,518.18	106%	176,400	139,935.08	53%	262,448	46,583.10	-54%	(86,048)	
5011-0003	Forsayth	18,696.04	99%	18,950	33,544.67	44%	76,000	(14,848.63)	26%	(57,050)	
5012-0003	Einasleigh	13,574.02	101%	13,500	11,822.92	63%	18,912	1,751.10	-32%	(5,412)	

Agenda General Meeting - Wednesday 21 January 2026

General Ledger2023.6.13.1

(Accounts: 0300-0001-0000 to 5014-2400-0000. All report groups. 52% of year elapsed. To Level 4. Excludes committed costs)
Etheridge Shire Council (Budget for full year) Financial Year Ending 2026

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			REVENUE			EXPENDITURE			SURPLUS/(DEFICIENCY)		
			31 Jan 2026	Budget	31 Jan 2026	Budget	31 Jan 2026	Budget	31 Jan 2026	Budget	
5013-0003	Mt Surprise		14,610.16	122%	12,000	3,042.72	35%	8,711	11,567.44	352%	3,289
5010-0002	Waste Management		233,398.40	106%	220,850	188,345.39	51%	366,071	45,053.01	-31%	(145,221)
5000-0001	Utilities		684,863.17	86%	795,050	864,027.92	48%	1,817,980	(179,164.75)	18%	(1,022,930)
TOTAL REVENUE AND EXPENDITURE			39,591,678.89	59%	66,856,806	44,271,992.01	75%	59,341,130	(4,680,313.12)	-62%	7,515,676

12 DIRECTOR ENGINEERING SERVICES - OPEN SESSION REPORTS

Item No: 12.1
Subject: Director of Engineering Services - December Briefing Report
Classification: Open
Author: Raju Ranjit, Director of Engineering Services

RECOMMENDATION

That Council receives and notes the Director of Engineering Services Briefing Report for the month of December 2025.

TRANSPORT AND MAIN ROADS

- The TMR safety and regulation team is working for the school crossing, relocation of the 60 kmph signs and placing of a smiley face speed monitoring system in Mount Surprise.
- Attended a meeting with TMR re: Flood monitoring system and Automatic Road closure system (VMS) at the Lynd Junction and 3 ways junction.
- Discussed on the current TMR's current budget situation and ownership of the new assets.
- ESC is consulting with QRA for funding for the Flood monitoring system at Log Creek and Somerset Creek on Gulf Development Road.

HEAVY VEHICLE SAFETY PRODUCTIVITY PROGRAM (HVSPP)

Truck wash Bay project - Georgetown

- Walking platform
 - Design completed and waiting for quotation.
- Oil Separator
 - Waiting for quotation and will be presented for budget consideration.

WORKS IN MOUNT SURPRISE

- Town Maintenance tender to be re-advertised.

EINASLEIGH

- Town Maintenance tender to be re-advertised.
- Water tanks to be relocated from the cattle yard to Racecourse.
- Storm water drainage in Fourth Street will be commenced in January 2026 by Council team subject to other urgent commitments.
- Waiting for quotation to upgrade the existing spoon drain located in front of the hotel.
- Council has contacted the Abandoned Mines department of Natural Resources and Mines regarding the mining shaft hole located near the railway track. - Department of Natural Resources and Mines, Manufacturing and Regional and Rural Development has visited the site on 18/12/2025. The department is working with Heritage department and searching funding for Concrete cap or Security fencing options.
- Town Hall – Stairs have been repaired, and other works (approved) completed.

REMOTE AIRSTRIP UPGRADE PROGRAM ROUND 11 (RAUP 11)

- Request for quotation (RFQ) for boundary surveys for Forsayth & Georgetown Airstrip is in progress.

CHARLSTON DAM

- Weekly inspection is ongoing.
- GHD - spillway topographic survey completed on 5/12/2025.

REGIONAL ECONOMIC FUTURES FUND (REFF) – NORTHWEST QUEENSLAND MINERALS PROVINCE (NWMP) TOURISM INFRASTRUCTURE PROGRAM

- Three Benches installed
- Plantation of trees in progress

NORTHWEST QUEENSLAND ECONOMIC DIVERSIFICATION STRATEGY (NWQEDS10)
(Casey's rest upgrade project)

- Installation of Handrail in progress.
- Plaque installation completed.

FORSAYTH

Received quotations for a chemical shed for the Transfer Station and in procurement process.

FLOOD WORKS

- 2024/2025 Flood event - Submission completed and waiting for QRA's approval.
- 2023/2024 Flood Event - Work in progress and will be completed by June 2026.
- 2022/2023 Flood event –Work completed in December 2025.

GEORGETOWN

Georgetown – Forsayth Road (TMR Road)

Design Phase and DRFA funding phase submission process

- Hayman Street
Consulted with residents regarding the Hayman drainage project in October 2025 and mentioned about the proposed Hayman drainage upgrade project. The proposed scope of works is:
 - o Upgrade the existing open drainage
 - o Installation of additional one pipe in Crampton Street crossing and one pipe in Collins Street
 - o Installation of pipe culvert across the Hayman Street near the lot 25 SP217469 (5 Hayman Street) and a bed bar
 - o Construction of an open drain west of the Hayman street (downstream of the proposed pipe culvert across the Hayman street)
 - o Construction of end structure at the end of the proposed new open
 - o Work will be Commenced in January 2026 by Council crews subject to weather and other TMR projects.

FNQ ROC REGIONAL ROADS & TRANSPORT GROUP – TECHNICAL COMMITTEE

Nill

FNQ ROC REGIONAL WASTE MANAGEMENT PLAN TECHNICAL COMMITTEE

FNQ ROC Regional Waste management Plan has prepared a submission re: Parliamentary inquiry into the Tyre Industry

ATTENDANCE OF EVENTS

A list of attendance during the reporting period for Council's information is as follows

Date	Description	Location
5/12/2025	DRFA meeting	MS Team
8/12/2025	Manager's meeting	Depot

	ELT meeting	Board Room
	Finance meeting	Board Room
9/12/2025	Finalise meeting papers	Board Room

ATTACHMENTS

1. *FNQROC – Regional Waste Management Plan Technical Committee – submission on Tyre Industry*

Ref: #7785660

Monday, 8 December 2025

Committee Secretary
House Standing Committee on industry, Innovation and Science
PO Box 6021
Parliament House
CANBERRA ACT 2600

Dear Committee Members

Inquiry into the Current State of the Australian Tyre Industry and Opportunities within a Circular Economy

The Far North Queensland Regional Organisation of Councils (FNQROC) represents 12 member councils being Cairns, Cassowary and Tablelands Regional Council, Cook, Croydon, Douglas, Etheridge, Hinchinbrook and Mareeba Shire Councils and Hope Vale, Yarrabah and Wujal Wujal Aboriginal Shire Councils. Member councils cover more than 252,000 square kilometres with a total population of exceeding 294,000.

On behalf of the Far North Queensland Regional Organisation of Councils (FNQROC), please find attached to this correspondence our response to the Inquiry into the Current State of the Australian Tyre Industry and Opportunities within a Circular Economy.

FNQROC represents councils across one of Australia's most remote and environmentally sensitive regions. Our submission highlights the unique challenges faced by regional and remote communities in managing end-of-life tyres (EOLTs), including high freight costs, limited local processing capacity, seasonal access constraints, and persistent illegal dumping. These barriers significantly undermine circular economy outcomes and impose disproportionate costs on regional and remote ratepayers.

As a summary we believe changes to policy measures that deliver equity and practical solutions for remote Australia is required, including:

- Mandatory national product stewardship with full cost coverage for all tyre types, including off-the-road (OTR) tyres;
- Refund/deposit-style incentives to curb illegal dumping and increase recovery rates;
- Mandatory reporting and reconciliation by tyre fitters (private and public organisations);
- Investment in regional infrastructure and mobile processing solutions;
- Targeted transport subsidies to reduce the freight burden on regional and remote communities.

Agenda General Meeting - Wednesday 21 January 2026

Our recommendations are grounded in FNQROC's regional data and operational experience and are designed to ensure that tyre circularity works for all Australians—not just those in metropolitan areas.

We appreciate the Committee's consideration of this submission and welcome the opportunity to provide further information. For further information please do not hesitate to contact myself or Bhakti Devi, Regional Waste Management Plan Coordinator on E: bhakti.devi@fnqroc.qld.gov.au or M: 0407 237 863.

Yours sincerely

Darlene Irvine
CEO FNQROC

FNQROC Submission

Inquiry into the Current State of the Australian Tyre Industry and Opportunities within a Circular Economy

Executive Summary

Far North Queensland (FNQ) regional councils face unique barriers to achieving circular outcomes for end-of-life tyres (EOLT), which include: long-haul freight to southern processors, small and dispersed volumes, wet-season access constraints and persistent illegal dumping. Regional data compiled by FNQROC shows approximately 3,340 tonnes of tyres collected annually across the FNQROC area (Cairns ~57%, Mareeba ~14%, Cassowary ~11%), all transported to South-East Queensland, with freight costs around \$400 per tonne. These operational realities materially undermine recovery rates, heighten environmental and public health risks and impose disproportionate costs on remote communities.

1. FNQ Context and Challenges

- **Volumes and logistics:** FNQ generates ~3,340 tpa of tyres that are collected and sent south for processing; transport (~\$400/t) is the dominant cost driver and barrier to circularity.
- **Illegal dumping:** Councils face increasing costs and clean-ups for dumped tyres, with regional areas bearing higher per-tyre costs.
- **Seasonal access:** Wet-season closures and flood events interrupt collections, causing stockpiling that elevates fire and mosquito vector risks.
- **No large-scale processor in the FNQ region:** The nearest tyre processor from FNQ is in the North Queensland, near Townsville. Processing capacity remains concentrated in SEQ. This geographic concentration contributes to high transport costs, limited competition, and constrained access for remote councils.
- **Limitation to local processing options.** FNQ volumes are insufficient on their own to support capital-intensive recycling technologies; regional consolidation hubs or mobile/modular processing are needed.
- **Environment public health risks:** Stockpiled and illegally dumped tyres create mosquito breeding sites (vector disease risk), fire hazards, and potential soil and water contamination — all particular concern given the Great Barrier Reef catchment and tropical climate.

2. National Facts & Figures

Australia generated an estimated 537,000 tonnes of used tyres in 2023–24. Resource recovery was ~353,000 tonnes (66%) when energy recovery is included; only 26% were reused or recycled into higher-value outcomes, with domestic crumbing capacity around 86,250 tpa.

3. Transport Emissions Burden

Indicative carbon burden of long-haul transport: using an Australian heavy road freight factor of ~0.184 kg CO₂e per tonne-km, a one-way 1,700 km haul adds ~0.31 tonnes CO₂e per tonne of tyres; a return supply chain doubles this. Freight decarbonisation is therefore directly aligned with regional processing investment.

4. Regulatory and Data Improvements for Queensland

Queensland currently classifies EOLT as regulated and trackable waste (code T140) with obligations on generators, transporters and receivers to use waste transport certificates and meet ERA licensing thresholds (e.g., >4 tonnes / 4 m³ storage requires ERA 62).

To reduce leakage and improve auditable flows of capturing the end-of-life tyres, there is an urgent need for:

- Strengthening digital tracking of tyres (?)
- Mandating reconciliation by tyre fitters and road crews, and
- Enforcing TSA accreditation in procurement

5. FNQROC Policy Recommendations

FNQROC recommends the adoption of policy positions that enable end-of-life tyres (EOLTs) to play a meaningful role in the circular economy.

Establishing clear, relevant, and effective policy settings (as outlined below) is essential to ensure the efficient flow of tyres throughout their lifecycle and to support genuine loop closure within the industry:

- Mandate a national product stewardship scheme with full cost coverage for the collection, transport, and processing of all types of end-of-life tyres across remote regions, including off-the-road (OTR) tyres.
- Introduce a refund/deposit-style incentive for tyres, integrated with the stewardship scheme (similar to Containers for Change), to curb illegal dumping and increase return rates.
- Require mandatory reporting and reconciliation by tyre fitters (both public and private), with penalties for any discrepancies.
- Set minimum composition and labelling standards to improve recyclability and reduce contaminants (without reducing safety standards of tyres).
- Invest in regional infrastructure, such as aggregation hubs, secure storage, and modular/mobile processing suited to dispersed volumes.
- Provide targeted transport subsidies or cost-offset mechanisms to reduce the disproportionate freight burden on remote and regional communities, ensuring fair access to tyre recycling services regardless of location.
- Support enhanced data collection, mapping, and enforcement capacity for FNQ, including funding for rapid response to stockpiles and tyre fires.
- Where appropriate, embed Indigenous and local employment outcomes in stewardship-funded projects (collection, processing, and product development).
- Set Federal and recommend State government procurement targets for crumb rubber-modified asphalt in FNQ road programs to build stable local demand for tyre-derived material (supported by life-cycle assessments and field trials).

Appendix A – Illustrative Freight Emissions Calculation

Emission factor (road freight, 16–28 t truck): 0.184 kg CO₂e per tonne-km. For 1,700 km one-way: $0.184 \times 1,700 = 312.8 \text{ kg CO}_2\text{e/t} (\sim 0.31 \text{ t CO}_2\text{e})$. For round trip logistics (backloading assumptions vary), emissions may exceed $\sim 0.62 \text{ t CO}_2\text{e per tonne moved}$.

References

1. [Tyre Stewardship Australia \(2025\). New Report: High Recovery Rates Mask Australia's Tyre Recycling Circularity Failure](#)
2. [Tyre Stewardship Australia \(2024\). Australian Tyre Consumption and Recovery 2023–24](#)
3. [Mining Magazine Australia \(2025\). How mining can get the wheels rolling on tyre recovery](#)
4. [Climatiq \(Australia\) – Truck 16–28 t emission factor](#)
5. [Queensland DES: Management of end-of-life tyres](#)
6. [Queensland DES: Waste Tracking Overview](#)
7. [Tyre Stewardship Australia \(2025\). QLD Tyre Storage Guidelines](#)
8. [ALGA \(2024\). Dumped tyres costing councils \\$6.5 million a year](#)
9. [TSA \(2024\). Stockpiling and Illegal Dumping – Blue Environment report](#)
10. [GBRMPA \(Marine Debris Position Statement\)](#)
11. [TSA \(2025\). Best Practice Tyre Storage & Fire Preparedness](#)
12. [FRNSW \(2014\). Bulk Storage of Rubber Tyres](#)
13. [TSA \(Tools & Resources\). Crumb Rubber in Roads and LCA evidence](#)
14. [Weibold \(2024\). SSROC multi-council crumb rubber project, LCA results](#)
15. [Queensland Government: Containers for Change](#)

13 CLOSED SESSION REPORTS

Item No: 13.1
Subject: **Material Change of Use – Extension to Service Station - Georgetown**
Classification: Closed
Author: **Kenneth Timms, Interim Chief Executive Officer**

REASONS FOR CONFIDENTIALITY

This report is considered confidential in accordance with section 245J (3) (i) of the *Local Government Regulation 2012*, as it contains information relating to a matter the local government is required to keep confidential under a law of, or formal arrangement with, the Commonwealth or a State.

Item No: 13.2
Subject: **Plant Replacement - MR Truck Tender**
Classification: Closed
Author: **Allan (Jack) Parry, Infrastructure Services Operations Manager**

REASONS FOR CONFIDENTIALITY

This report is considered confidential in accordance with section 245J (3) (c) of the *Local Government Regulation 2012*, as it contains information relating to the local government's budget.

14 GENERAL BUSINESS

Attached is a list of General Business items from previous Council meetings for discussion.

Attachment
{attachment-list}

15 FOR YOUR INFORMATION

The below items are for information only:

1. Gulf RWA SAG 4 Final Minutes and Presentation **[15.1.1]**
2. Advise - Amendment to Legislation - Planning (Battery Storage Facilities) - Effective 12-12-2025 **[15.1.2]**
3. ED Letter Out - RADF 2026-28 Funding Extension - Etheridge Shire Council **[15.1.3]**

Minutes

File ref: GRWA SAG4

Title:	Gulf Regional Water Assessment Stakeholder Advisory Group Meeting 4	
Venue:	MS Teams (online)	
Event date:	25 November 2025	Start: 10:00 am Finish: 12.00 pm
Chair:	Ingrid Fomiatti Minnesma – Executive Director – North Region, Department of Local Government, Water and Volunteers	

Attendees – online:	Association of Mining and Exploration Companies (AMEC) – Amy Warden (proxy) Burke Shire Council – Cr Ernie Camp Carpentaria Shire Council – Cr Jack Bawden Flinders Shire Council – Cr Kate Peddle, Eddie Jackson McKinlay Shire Council – Cr Janene Fegan, Trevor Williams Mount Isa City Council – Cr Dan Ballard (proxy) Mount Isa Townsville Economic Zone Inc. (MITEZ) – Maria James North West Queensland ROC –Josh Dyke Queensland Conservation Council – Nigel Parratt, Lucy Graham (proxy) Queensland Farmers Federation – Jo Martin Queensland Resources Council – Alex Curtis Sunwater - William Weaver Department of Local Government, Water and Volunteers: Emma Richter, Chris McKenna, Paul Bikaunieks, Suzanne Pyne, Bronwyn Dwyer, Catherine Devoil
Presenters and guests:	GHD: Cathy Sherry, Peter MacTaggart AECOM: Rose Mullen
Observers:	Department of Climate Change, Energy, the Environment and Water – Sheena Dunne (Obs) Department of Natural Resources and Mines, Manufacturing and Regional and Rural Development - Millie Grant, Ben Johns
Apologies:	AgForce Queensland – Ruth Thompson Cloncurry Shire Council – Cr Greg Campbell, Cr Sam Daniels Cotton Australia – Michael Murray Croydon Shire Council – Jacqui Cresswell Etheridge Shire Council – Cr Barry Hughes, Kenneth Timms, Raju Ranjit Gulf Savannah Development (GSD) – Neil O'Brien Mareeba Shire Council – Cr Amy Braes, Glenda Kirk Mount Isa City Council – Cr Peta MacRae, Tim Rose Mount Isa Mines – Corey Jacobsen Mount Isa Water Board – Bill Esteves, Blake Nicolson Regional Development Australia Tropical North Inc – Hurriyet Babacan, Joe Moro Regional Development Australia - Townsville and North West QLD – Lisa McDonald Richmond Shire Council – Cr John Wharton, Peter Bennett

Next meeting:	Anticipated March/April 2026

Agenda item: 1 - Acknowledgment of Country (Slide 2)

The Chair opened the meeting at 10:02am and welcomed participants.

Paul Bikauniiks presented an Acknowledgement of Country and paid respect to Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander leaders and elders past, present and future.

Agenda item: 2 – Welcome and introductions (Slide 3-4)

The Chair welcomed attendees and provided an overview of the agenda. The meeting presentation is included with these minutes. Participants introduced themselves.

Agenda item: 3 – Gulf Regional Water Assessment update (Slide 5-11)

Emma Richter noted that the last Stakeholder Advisory Group (SAG) Meeting #3 was held in May 2025 where the shortlisted options were presented. The minutes from that meeting have been finalised and distributed to members.

There were no outstanding actions.

Emma provided an update on Gulf Regional Water Assessment (GRWA) progress including:

- Technical Advisory Panel (TAP) and Program Steering Committee (PSC) meetings
- Contractors
- Phase 2 activity and Working group meeting in August 2025
- Traditional Owner consultation which has successfully achieved direct connection with Yirendali, Mitakoodi and Mayi, Wakaman, Kokoberrin and Waanyi Peoples..

Emma noted the GRWA's broader process; shortlisted options being analysed; and the options with detailed business cases that may be further considered in the drafting phase of the draft GRWA.

Questions and comments during Agenda Item 3 session:

Q. When will options with detailed business cases (DBCs) be considered in the Regional Water Assessment (RWA) process?

These will be considered following the completion of the RWA detailed analysis, as part of preparing the draft RWA.

Agenda item: 4 – Options Analysis update (Slide 12-36)

Cathy Sherry from GHD provided a recap of the GRWA process to date that included:

- Service Need overview
- Gap analysis

Peter MacTaggart then presented an overview of each shortlisted option regarding the progress of their design and analysis. Shortlisted options are:

- Underground technologies (including underground dams)
- Julius Dam North-West Queensland Water Pipeline duplication and greenfield corridor (to supply Critical Minerals Zone)
- Julius Dam North-West Queensland Water Pipeline duplication and greenfield corridor (to supply copper mines)
- Groundwater opportunities to support mining operations
- Water harvesting (private development)

Peter noted that the groundwater opportunities and water harvesting options were less developed than the other options. Their design is very dependant on location, which will need to be more generally assumed for the RWA's purposes.

Cathy provided a summary of the desktop environmental assessment that has been undertaken including:

- Threatened species, ecological communities, wetlands and essential habitat
- Aboriginal cultural heritage and native title
- Approvals
- Waterway impacts

Cathy noted that the outcomes for some options would depend on actual location. Site-specific investigations would need to occur for any options progressed after the RWA is completed when improved clarity on development location and scale could occur, along with an improved opportunity to avoid/reduce any adverse impacts.

Peter summarised the status and approach of the modelling work being undertaken and provided examples of water harvesting scenario preliminary results for the Flinders, Leichhardt and Gilbert Rivers. Scenarios were developed to target the service need identified by Synergies Economic Consulting for the GRWA. Peter noted the work is to test scenarios and does not reflect any policy position on water availability. Attendees were provided with a brief overview of modelling definitions used in the presentation of results. Details of the results were presented in the attached presentation.

Peter finalised the presentation with a summary of next steps.

Questions and comments during Agenda Item 4 session:

Q. Will the design of options consider service needs identified in other proposals such as those with DBCs?

The RWA analysis will focus on the service needs assessment completed for the GRWA. It should be noted, however, that the GRWA's service need assessment considered demand assessments that were available in projects with completed DBCs.

Action: GRWA team to arrange discussion of service need considerations in economic analysis with Flinders Shire Council.

Post SAG Meeting Update: Department of Local Government, Water and Volunteers, Synergies Economic Consulting and Flinders Shire Council representatives held a meeting on 27 November 2025 to facilitate this discussion.

Q. How is underground dam water considered in the Water Plan?

It is managed as surface water in the Water Plan and will require an entitlement to take water.

Q. Who will have responsibility for moving water captured in underground dams to where it is required?

Nominally, the proponent.

Q. Has the cost of infrastructure for moving the underground dam water been considered in the feasibility of the underground dams?

A generic design and cost estimate will be developed and used to help conceptualise and understand the potential viability of this option.

Q. Have underground dams been used in Australia before and is it possible to provide information of their performance where they have been used?

No, they have not been used in Australia before. International examples are being considered in the analysis. This information may be presented at the next SAG meeting.

Action: Underground Dam historical information to be provided at next SAG meeting.

Post Meeting Clarification: Can the options analysis include consideration of the performance of underground dams in other countries and be presented to the SAG?

Performance of underground dams internationally is intended to be considered as part of the financial and economic analysis of the options. Relevant information will be presented at the next SAG meeting.

Q. Has there been any consideration of the impact of climate change to the underground dam infrastructure?

General climate variability impacts were assessed in phase 1 of the RWA, but the scope of work did not include specific risk assessment to infrastructure.

Q. Does the water harvesting hydrological assessment also consider climate change and cultural flow impacts?

No, as the current status quo is being used in the GRWA work. The Water Plan review will separately consider these issues.

Queensland Farmers Federation supported the approach to estimate impacts of water harvesting scenarios on existing licence holders and expressed a preference that impacts would be minimised in any future water management and infrastructure development.

Q. Who would own the water harvesting infrastructure?

The RWA's option is premised on private infrastructure ownership.

Q. What is the current tenure of the water harvesting sites?

The land tenure has not been investigated as the work is focused on water availability on river reaches. The option is not site specific.

Q. Will the economic analysis include consideration of the costs of logistics such as transportation?

Question taken on notice.

Post SAG Meeting Clarification: Yes, the cost of transportation will be considered.

Agenda item: 5 – Gulf Water Plan Review – update (Slide 37-45)

Bronwyn Dwyer updated attendees on the status of the Gulf Water Plan review regarding modelling and draft policy positions on plan area, groundwater and water licence conversion recommendations. Future work will focus on:

- Hydrological and ecological modelling and assessment.
- Entitlement holder consultation regarding water licence conversion.
- Progression of policy positions for stakeholder feedback.

Questions and comments during Agenda Item 6 session:

Q. What stage is consultation with the Entitlement holders?

The Water Plan Review team is conducting field visits now and will continue next week. Licence holders who are not visited will be offered a MS Teams online meeting. The consultation also includes discussion about trading zones.

Agenda item: 6 – Critical Minerals Queensland - Groundwater Baseline Project update (Slide 46-55)

Millie Grant from CMQ introduced the project being led by the Department of Natural Resources and Mines, Manufacturing and Regional and Rural Development.

Rose Mullen from AECOM provided a project overview as per the attached presentation. This included desktop study findings regarding groundwater conceptualisation, water supply options and volumes for the Julia Creek/Richmond and Croydon critical minerals zones.

Questions and comments during Agenda Item 6 session:

Q. Did the AECOM work also consider water demand from an increasing workforce associated with critical minerals mines?

No, the work was mining focused.

Post Meeting Clarification – Will the options assessment for the Gulf RWA consider submarine groundwater losses?

Submarine groundwater losses will not be considered in the GRWA options analysis but will be more appropriately considered as part the Water Plan review and its associated environmental assessment.

Participants commented that the text was too small to see in these slides but anticipated this could be resolved by pdf distribution of the presentation following the meeting.

Agenda item: 6 – Next steps and close (Slide 56-57)

The Chair thanked participants and outlined the next steps for the Gulf RWA:

- Draft minutes for feedback
- Options Analysis / Draft RWA – March 2026
- Working Group / SAG – March/April 2026
- Technical Advisory Panel review
- Program Steering Committee endorsement
- Public consultation – anticipated mid-2026

Action Items:

1. GRWA team to arrange discussion of Service Need considerations in economic analysis with Flinders Shire Council.
2. Underground Dam historical information to be provided at next SAG meeting.
3. Further detail on inclusions/considerations regarding logistics in economic analysis to be presented at next SAG meeting.

Questions and comments during Agenda Item 7 session:

Q. Is it possible to receive relevant information/papers to read prior to the next SAG meeting?

A. The SAG does not usually receive discussion/information papers. The RWA team will consider what information might beneficially be distributed prior to future meetings.

Meeting Close: 11:41 am

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Gulf Regional Water Assessment

Stakeholder Advisory Group meeting #4

25 November 2025

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Acknowledgement of Country



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Welcome and introductions

Ingrid Fomiatti Minnesma, DLGWV

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Gulf Regional Water Assessment – SAG 4

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Agenda

Topic	Presented by	Time
Acknowledgment of Country	Paul Bikaunieks	5 min
Welcome and introductions	Ingrid Fomiatti Minnesma	5 min
GRWA update	Emma Richter	10 min
Options Analysis	GHD	70 min
Gulf Water Plan Review update	Bronwyn Dwyer	10 min
Critical Minerals Queensland – Groundwater Baseline Project update	AECOM	10 min
Next steps and close	Ingrid Fomiatti Minnesma	10 min

4 Gulf Regional Water Assessment – SAG 4 Not Queensland Government Policy

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RWA update

Emma Richter, DLGVW

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Previous meeting actions

- Minutes finalised and distributed
- No outstanding actions

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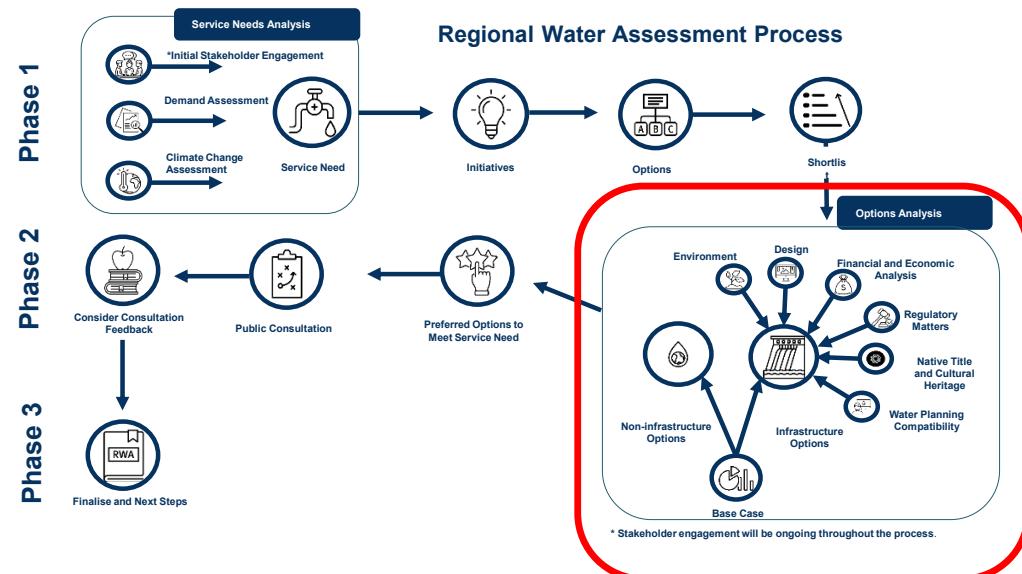
Update

- Technical Advisory Panel, Program Steering Committee – May 2025
- GHD – lead contractor
- OD Hydrology – water planning contractor
- Phase 2 commenced
- Working Group – August 2025
- Traditional Owner consultation



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Shortlisted Options

- Groundwater opportunities to support mining operations (outside of the McKinlay, Richmond and Croydon local government areas*)
- Water harvesting (private development)
- Julius Dam North-West Queensland Water Pipeline duplication and greenfield corridor (to supply copper mines)
- Julius Dam North-West Queensland Water Pipeline duplication and greenfield corridor (to supply CMZ)
- Underground technologies (including underground dams)

* Separate Department of Natural Resources and Mines, Manufacturing and Regional and Rural Development critical minerals zone groundwater study already underway for these locations.

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Options with Detailed Business Cases

- HIPCo
- Richmond Agriculture Project
- Hughenden Offstream Storage (Water Bank)
- Three Rivers Irrigation Project
- Cloncurry River Dam

Stakeholder views about these projects are acknowledged.



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Ongoing Engagement

- Draft RWA March-April 2026
- Public Consultation anticipated mid-2026



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Options Analysis

Peter MacTaggart & Cathy Sherry, GHD

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Gulf Regional Water Assessment – SAG 4

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Recap

13

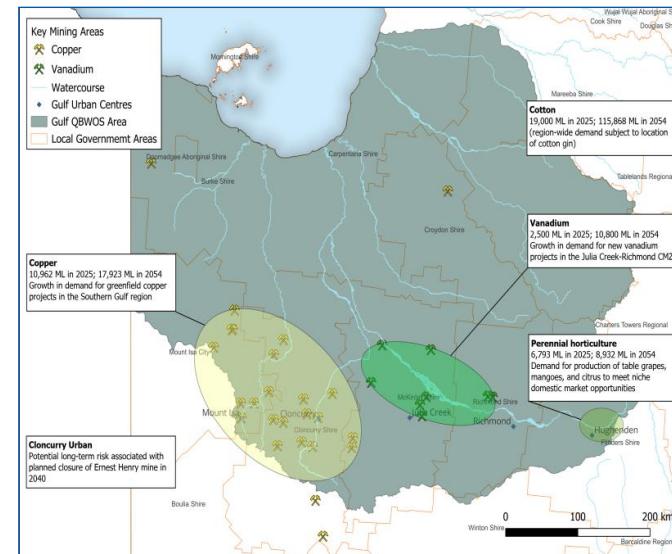
Gulf Regional Water Assessment – SAG 4

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Service Need Overview

- Irrigated seasonal crops (e.g. cotton) (97 GL)
- Perennial horticulture in Gilbert & Flinders (2 GL)
- Vanadium in CMZ (Julia Creek/Richmond) (8 GL)
- Copper mining in Leichhardt and Flinders (7 GL)
- Cloncurry urban water security in Flinders.



Gap analysis

- Gap analysis
 - Purpose was to identify risks to delivery of detailed technical investigations
- Gap analysis completed and presented to TAP
 - No critical risks identified
- Investigations underway.

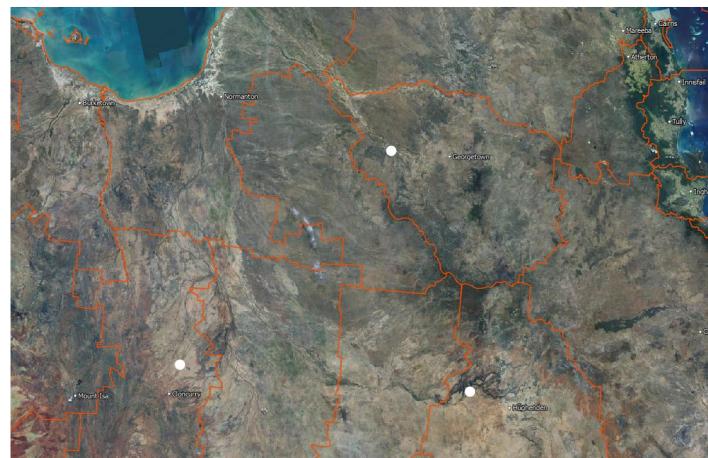


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Options Analysis Update

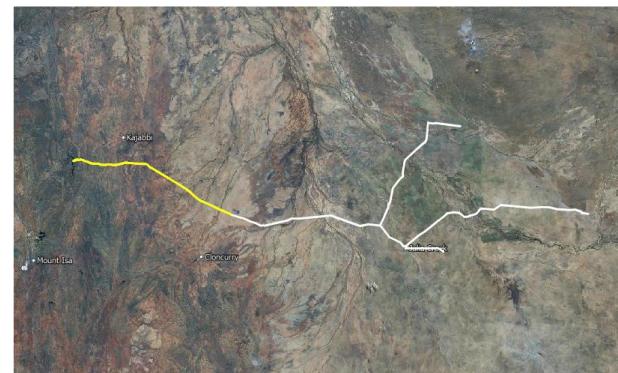
Option 4 – Underground technologies

- Permanent, below ground structure (dam) constructed with impermeable materials across the full width of the watercourse, and down to the impermeable base of the alluvial sediment bed to create a storage area upstream of the structure.
- Three potential sites have been identified for the development of underground technologies:
 - Cloncurry – Cloncurry River (Flinders River catchment)
 - Gilbert – Gilbert River (Gilbert River catchment)
 - Hughenden – Flinders River (Flinders River catchment).
- Design and construction would include:
 - Instream barrier works
 - Stabilised fish passage
 - Series of bores within or immediately adjacent to the ponded area.



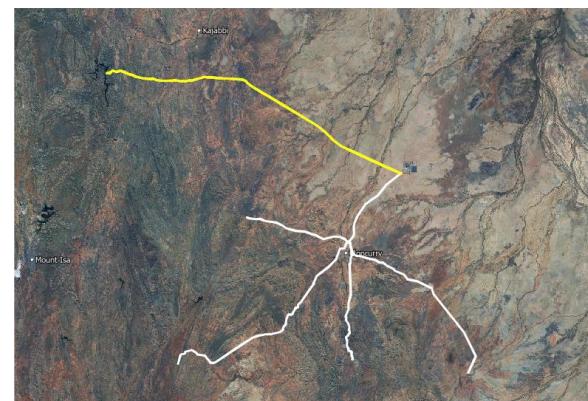
Option 5a – Julius Dam NWQWP duplication and greenfield corridor (to supply Critical Minerals Zone)

- The Julia Creek Richmond area has been identified as a Critical Minerals Zone (CMZ) in the Queensland Critical Minerals Strategy, due to its significant vanadium resources and potential to develop a significant critical minerals industry for Queensland.
- The Julia Creek Richmond CMZ encompasses the McKinlay Shire Council and Richmond Shire Council LGAs, where up to nine vanadium projects are proposed alongside two existing operational mineral mines.
- Option 5a involves the duplication of the existing North-West Qld Water Pipeline (NWQWP), which will comprise:
 - A new low lift pump station and short low pressure rising main at Lake Julius
 - A new delivery pump station and approximately 109 km of new high-pressure pipeline to a new balancing storage east of the Ernest Henry Mine.
- The option also involves a new pipeline running eastwards from Ernest Henry Mine towards Wills Development Road at Baroona Road north-east of Julia Creek, with branch pipelines to potential mine sites.



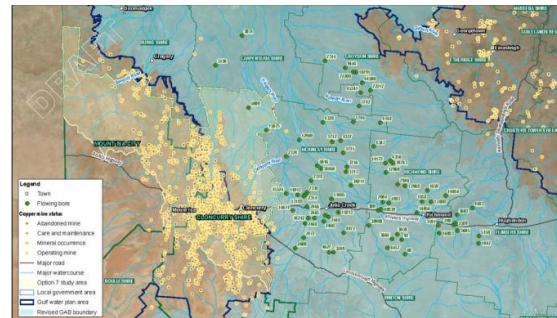
Option 5b – Julius Dam NWQWP duplication and greenfield corridor (to supply copper mines)

- Given the scheduled closure of Mount Isa Mines in 2025 and the ageing profile of the copper mines in the Gulf region, it is reasonable to conclude that the majority of future water demand for copper production in the Gulf region will likely to be attributable to greenfield projects.
- Option 5a involves the duplication of the existing NWQWP, which will comprise:
 - A new low lift pump station and short low pressure rising main at Lake Julius, near the existing Sunwater Pump Station
 - A new delivery pump station and approximately 109 km of the new high pressure pipeline to a new balancing storage east of the Ernest Henry Mine.
- The option also involves a new pipeline parallel to the existing Cloncurry pipeline continuing south to the balancing storage immediately north of Cloncurry, with private branch pipelines to individual mine sites.



Option 7 – Groundwater opportunities to support copper mining operations

- Option 7 seeks to leverage available groundwater reserves and couple this potential water supply with GAB bore capping programs to support future copper mining operations.
- This option does not relate to any specific site or sites but rather explores the potential opportunity across these two LGAs.
- There are two main opportunities to access groundwater for copper mining developments:
 - Flowing GAB bores, subject to management under the GABORA Water Plan
 - Groundwater from aquifers outside of the GABORA Water Plan area, subject to management under the Gulf Water Plan.
- The exact configuration of components, such as the number of bores or pipelines required, would be dependent on the local groundwater conditions and the requirements of individual mine site.



Option 12 – New offstream storages – water harvesting (private development)

- Option 12 investigates the feasibility of private offstream storages (OSS) in several viable locations across the Gulf region, to support the development of irrigated agriculture production.
- The following components are likely to be required:
 - Diversion works
 - Water storage
 - Irrigation delivery
 - Access track/s
 - Fuel storage
 - On-farm crop development and irrigation.
- The exact design of these components would be dependent on the local conditions and the requirements of relevant irrigated agriculture areas.

Environmental assessment draft findings

The environmental assessment has been completed but is yet to be reviewed by the Technical Advisory Panel. Key findings include:

- All options have potential interactions with threatened species, ecological communities, wetlands and essential habitat
- It's likely that most options will intersect areas with Aboriginal cultural heritage values and some will impact native title, requiring early engagement
- Approvals are likely to be complex across all in-stream and pipeline options, with several expected to trigger *Environment Projection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999* (EPBC) referral and require offsets for both State and Commonwealth matters
- Waterway impacts (including barrier works and water quality risks) are a material issue for the underground dams
- Groundwater and offstream options are more dependent on site-specific investigations, with impacts varying based on siting and scale
- Site selection, alignment optimization and design refinement provide significant opportunities to avoid or reduce environmental impacts

Hydrological modelling

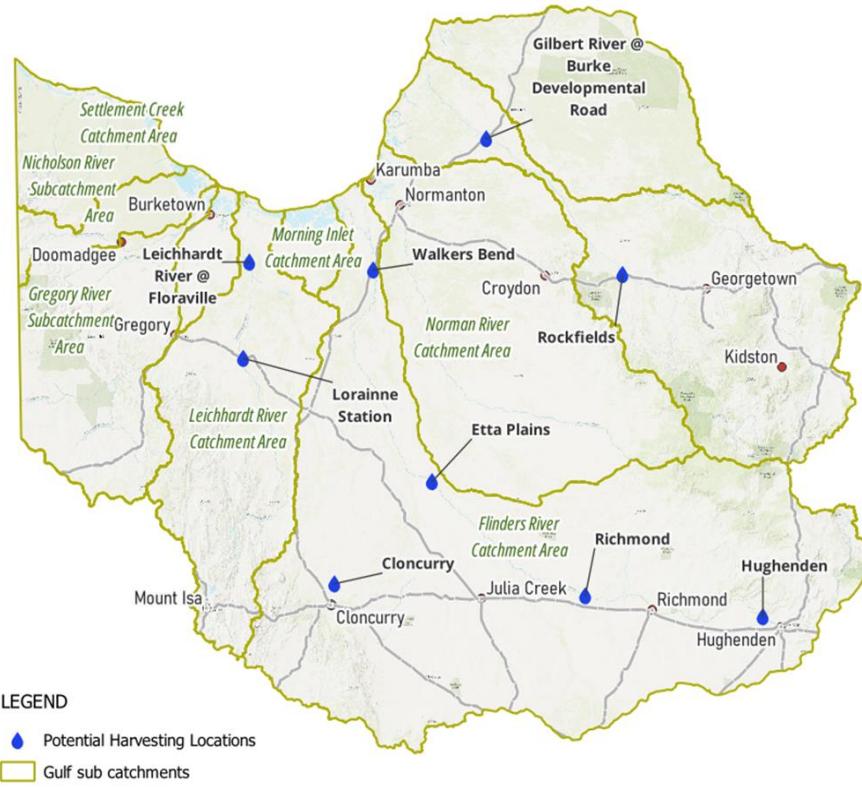
- Yield and compatibility assessment underway
- Underground dam hydrology commenced
- Preliminary results for water harvesting options

Water harvesting modelling update

- Yield modelling has been undertaken using the newly developed eSource model for the Gulf catchment, in alignment with the Gulf Water Plan review.
- An example scenario has been developed targeting the service need demand assessment, i.e. 2,000 ML of high security water for horticulture and 100,000 ML of medium security water for irrigated seasonal crops.
- Five locations have been selected in the Flinders; two locations selected in the Gilbert; and two locations selected in the Leichhardt.

The work is to test scenarios and does not reflect any policy position on water availability.

Nominal harvesting locations



Modelling – definitions

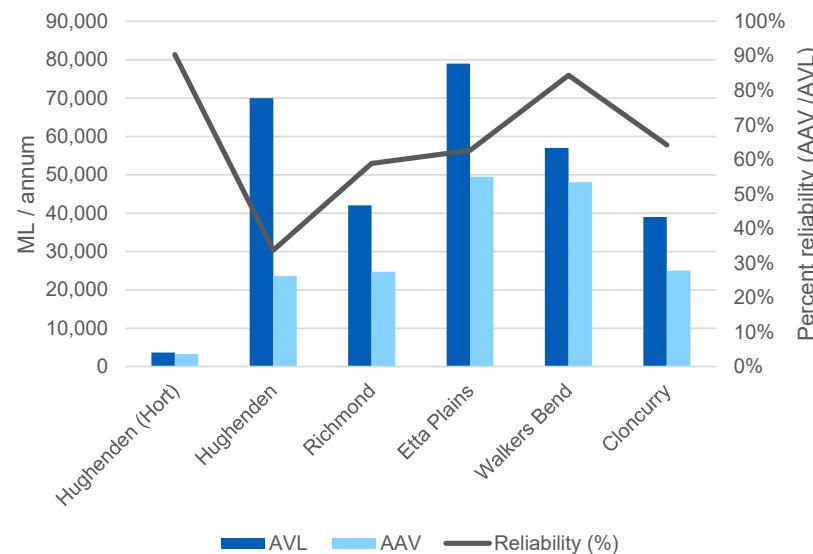
- **Megalitre (ML)** – a metric unit of capacity, equal to 1 million litres.
- **Average Annual Volume (AAV)** – the average amount of water diverted by a licence holder each year (expressed as ML) over the modelled period.
- **Annual Volumetric Limit (AVL)** – the maximum amount of water that a licence holder is authorised to take (in ML) in a water year.
- **Reliability** – the average annual volume expressed as a percentage of the annual volumetric limit (i.e. AAV / AVL). This provides an indication of how much water a licence holder is likely to receive (on average) relative to their AVL.
- **Full Supply Volume (FSV)** – the assumed water storage size for a harvesting operation.
- **Storage Efficiency** – how large a water storage is relative to the average annual volume (i.e. FSV / AAV). A low storage efficiency value indicates that less storage capacity is required to secure a given average volume.



Modelling – methodology

- The modelling approach is based on maximising harvesting volumes while protecting Environmental Flow Objectives (EFOs)
- Harvesting parameters are largely based on typical existing licence conditions
- On-farm storage volumes were assumed at 1.5 times AVL for irrigated seasonal crops and 2.0 times AVL for horticulture
- Crop demands vary based on their location (effective rainfall).

Preliminary modelling outcomes - Flinders



* Modelling outcomes are draft and likely to change. Revisions to address impacts are likely to result in AAV numbers reducing.

Preliminary modelling outcomes - Flinders

Location	Hughenden (Hort)	Hughenden (ISC)	Richmond (ISC)	Etta Plains (ISC)	Walkers Bend (ISC)	Cloncurry (ISC)
AAV	3,298	23,591	24,715	49,473	48,070	25,039
AVL	3,650	70,000	42,000	79,000	57,000	39,000
Reliability (AAV/AVL)	90%	34%	59%	63%	84%	64%
FSV	7,300	105,000	63,000	118,500	85,500	58,500
Storage Efficiency (FSV/AAV)	2.2	4.5	2.5	2.4	1.8	2.3

ISC – Irrigated seasonal crops (cotton)

- This is one example scenario and does not reflect any policy position on water availability.
- Modelling outcomes are draft and likely to change.
- Revisions to address impacts are likely to result in AAV numbers reducing.

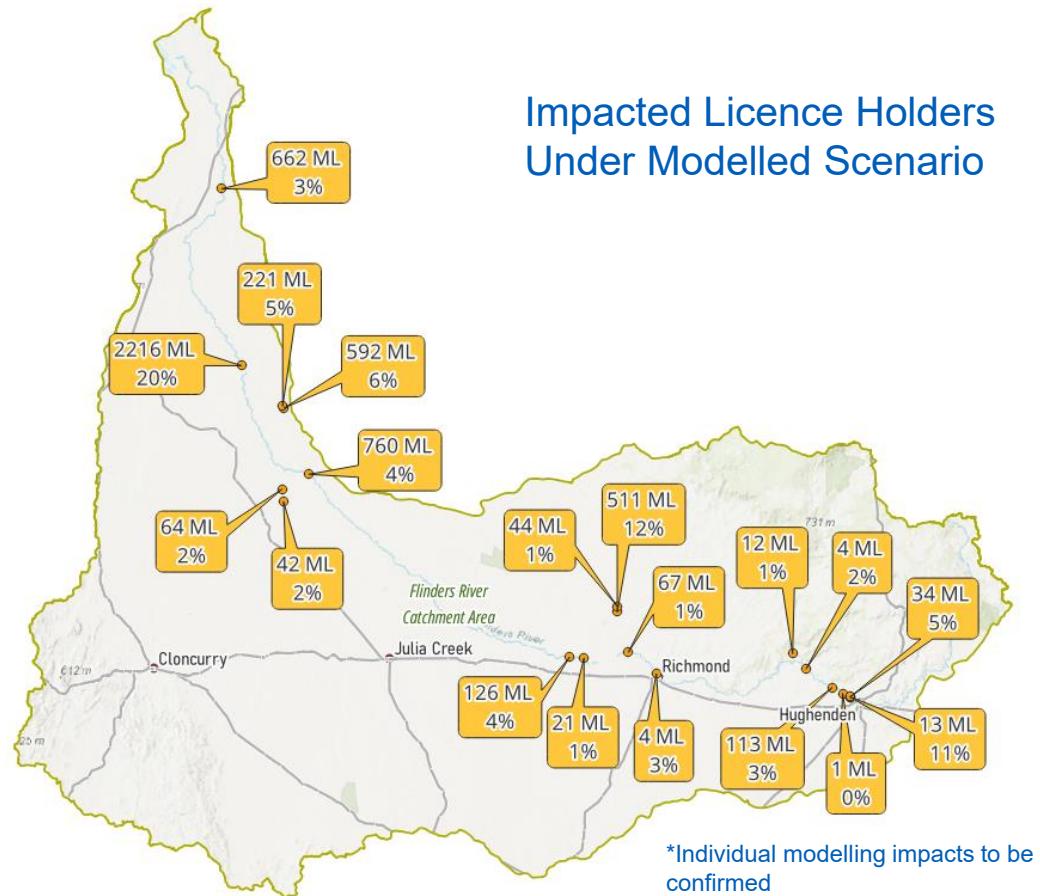
Themes from preliminary modelling outcomes in Flinders Catchment

- The reliability of harvested water increases moving down the catchment.
- Water harvesting in the upper catchment requires much larger storage volumes to secure reliable water supplies because it has a smaller contributing catchment and fewer flow events to harvest.
- Moving downstream, the amount of storage needed per hectare of cropping reduces.
- The horticulture focused water harvesting option near Hughenden performs well, because it relies on modest storage volumes that do not require large flow events to fill.

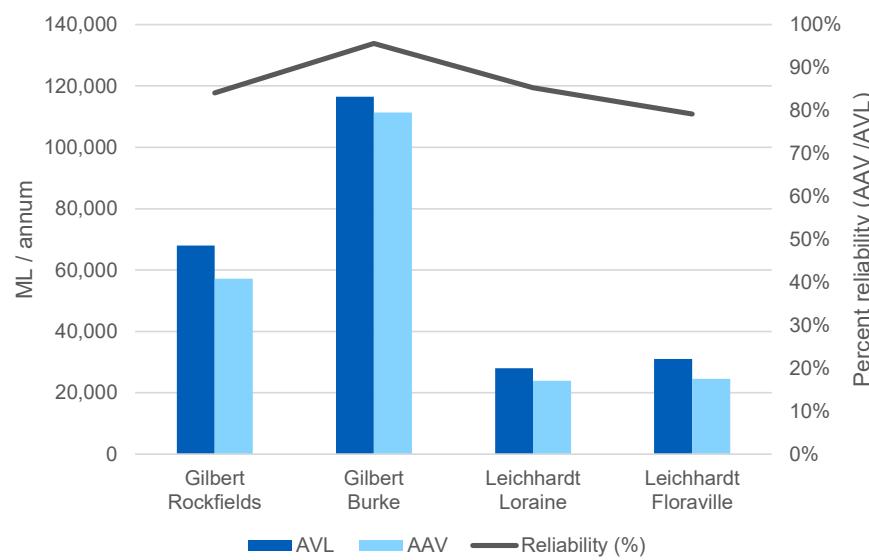
Preliminary Impacts to Existing Licence Holders – Flinders

- The base case model assumes an average annual volume (AAV) for existing users of 139,057 ML.
- The combined increase in AAV from the harvesting scenario is 174,186 ML. However, the new harvesting options is estimated to reduce the base case AAV by 5,541 ML. This represents an adverse impact to existing licenses.
- In percentage terms, most licence holders are estimated to be adversely impacted by up to 4%, however six are greater than 4% including three that are impacted between 10% and 20%.
- These impacts are considered unreasonable, and additional modelling is continuing to seek more balanced outcomes.

Impacted Licence Holders Under Modelled Scenario



Preliminary modelling outcomes – Gilbert & Leichhardt



- Modelling outcomes are draft and likely to change.

Preliminary modelling outcomes – Gilbert & Leichhardt

Location	Gilbert – Rockfields (ISC)	Gilbert – Burke Development Rd (ISC)	Leichhardt – Loraine (ISC)	Leichhardt - Floraville (ISC)
AAV	57,187	111,389	23,882	24,548
AVL	68,000	116,500	28,000	31,000
Reliability (AAV/AVL)	85%	95%	85%	79%
FSV	102,000	174,750	42,000	46,500
Storage Efficiency (FSV/AAV)	1.8	1.6	1.8	1.9

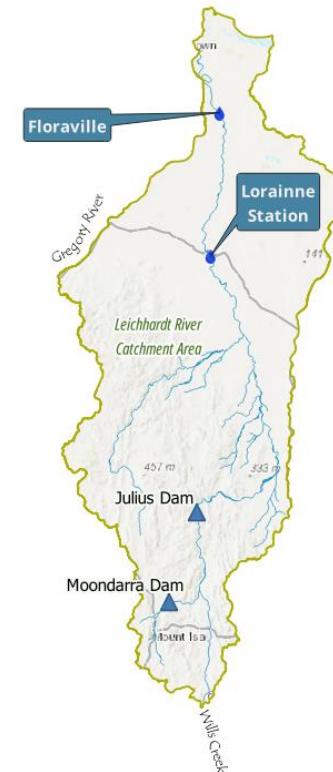
ISC – Irrigated seasonal crops (cotton)

- *This is just an example scenario and does not reflect any policy position on water availability.*
- *Modelling outcomes are draft and likely to change. Revisions to address impacts are likely to result in AAV numbers reducing.*

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Themes from preliminary modelling outcomes in Gilbert and Leichhardt Catchments

- In the Gilbert, as with the Flinders, reliability improves lower in the catchment.
- Both yields and reliability are very high in location tested at the Burke Developmental Road.
- In the Leichhardt, both harvesting options perform well, however the upper location (Lorraine) performs better than the lower option (Floraville). This is because the Leichhardt is a long, narrow catchment with few major tributaries.
- In general, all sites in both sub-catchments perform well from both a reliability and a storage efficiency perspective.



Next steps

- Engineering studies nearing completion.
- Cost estimates will be generated in December.
- Economic analysis will be undertaken throughout January.
- Draft RWA report to be prepared second quarter of 2026.

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Gulf Water Plan Review Update

Bronwyn Dwyer, Caitlin Booy & Roger Timm, DLGWV

37

Gulf Regional Water Assessment – SAG 4

Not Queensland Government Policy

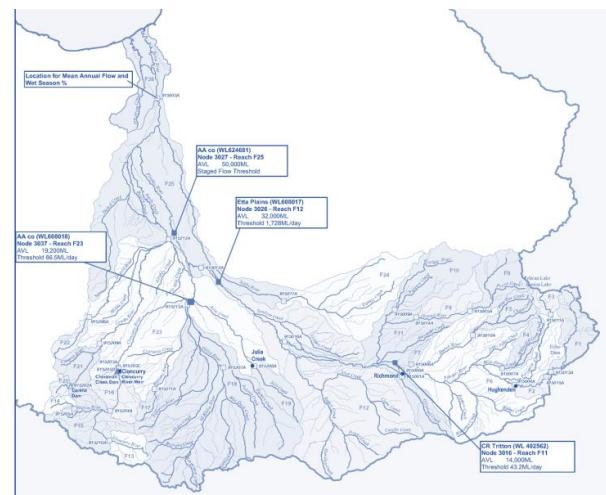
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Modelling Status

- Flinders model initial scenarios run and presented to the Water Plan Working Group.
- Leichhardt and Gilbert Models calibrated, and scenario runs underway.
 - Results anticipated Q1 2026
- Climate Variability and Ecological Assessment still to be undertaken.
 - Results anticipated Q3 2026



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Draft Policy Positions for Consultation



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Plan Area Recommendations

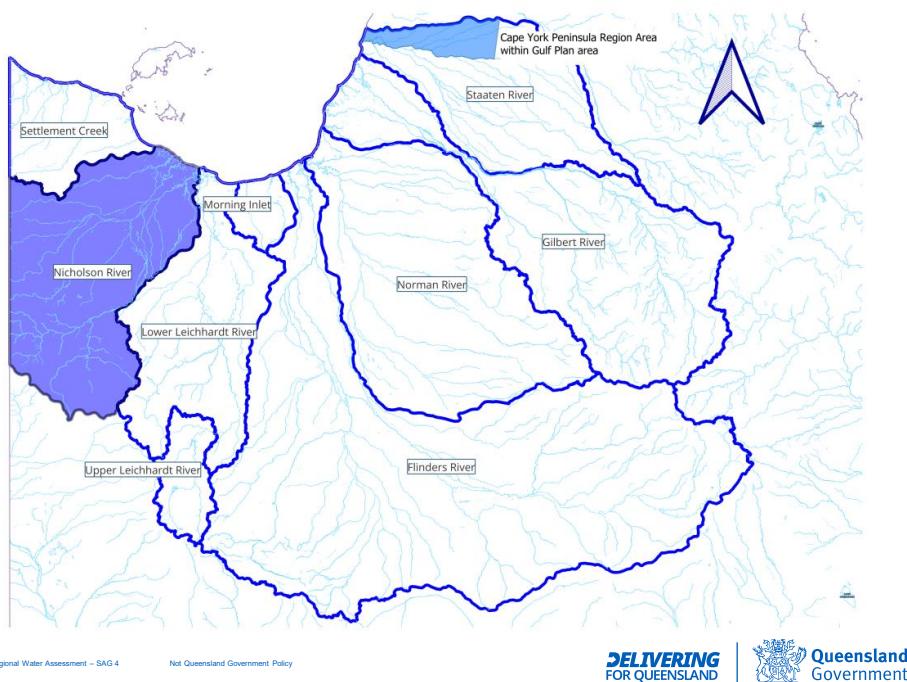
Removal of the Nicholson River subcatchment and Gregory River subcatchment areas. (map 1)

Clearly define the Cape York Peninsula Region Area within the replacement water plan. (map 1)

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Map 1



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Groundwater Recommendations

General Groundwater

- Update the term 'groundwater' to 'underground water' to ensure consistency with the *Water Act 2000* (the Act).
- Update the term 'prescribed watercourse' to 'declared watercourse' to ensure consistency with the Act.

Hydraulically Connected

- Maintain the existing management arrangements within 1km of a declared watercourse.
- Propose a definition for 'not hydraulically connected'.

Groundwater Management Areas (GMAs)

- Update the term 'groundwater management area' to 'underground water management area' to ensure consistency with the Act.
- Retain the existing Nicholson and Einasleigh GMAs, with no additional GMAs.
- Remove the reference to the Great Artesian Basin (GAB) GMA from Schedule 2 of the water plan.



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Conversion WL to WA Recommendations

- Progress with the conversion of licences to take water (including licences to divert water) to water allocations (WAs) across the water plan area using proposed principles of conversion.
- Incorporate appropriate settings for the conversion process within the draft water plan.
- Implementation will occur through a water entitlement notice following the release of a final water plan and water management protocol.

Conversion Principles include:

1. Must be a licence to take water (LTW) from a watercourse, lake and/or spring.
2. Flow or access conditions should be simplified and linked to gauging stations where possible.
3. LTWs must be for a single water source to convert to WAs. LTWs that involve multiple water sources must be separated into individual licences for each water source before conversion.
4. LTWs or Notice of Works that authorise the take of groundwater, or an unbundled GW component, must not be converted to WAs.
5. LTWs that authorise the take of OLF, or an unbundled OLF component, must not be converted to WAs.

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Next Steps

- Hydrological and Ecological Modelling and Assessment.
- One on one consultation with entitlement holders on proposal to convert WL to WA.
 - Late November / early December
- Progression of policy positions for stakeholder feedback.



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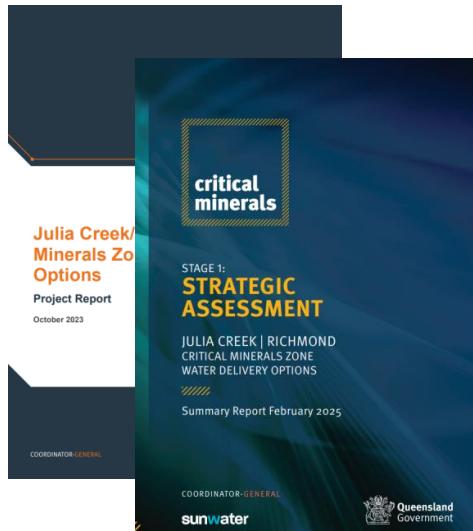
Gulf Water Plan Review Timeline



Critical Minerals Queensland – Groundwater Baseline Project update

Mark Stewart, Rose Mullen, AECOM

Critical Minerals Zone development - Water



SIX IDENTIFIED STRATEGIC INITIATIVES

- NEW STORAGE
Dams, weirs and offstream storages
- EXISTING STORAGE
- A NEW DESALINATION PLANT
Plant supply from the Gulf of Carpentaria
- WATER HARVESTING
From rivers
- RAISE EXISTING ONSTREAM STORAGE
- GROUNDWATER SUPPLY SOLUTIONS

**OPTIONS ANALYSIS STAGE 1
GROUNDWATER AVAILABILITY**

**OPTIONS ANALYSIS STAGE 2
REASSESSMENT OF WATER DEMAND
AND OPTIONS ANALYSIS**

**REGULATORY CONSIDERATIONS
WATER PLAN (GULF) 2007 REVIEW**



**Northwest Queensland Critical Mineral Zone
(CMZ) Groundwater Baseline Project**

Julia Creek/ Richmond and Croydon CMZs

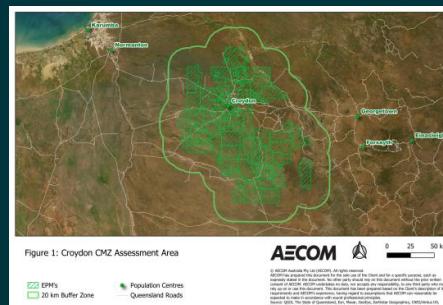
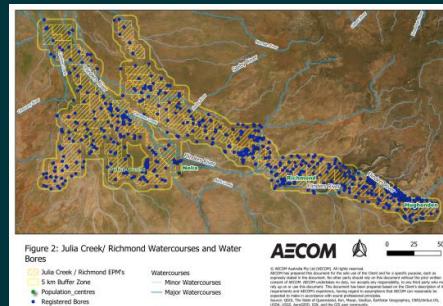
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Julia Creek/ Richmond & Croydon CMZ groundwater baseline

Objectives of the groundwater baseline study:

- Develop a regional groundwater conceptualisation
- Assess groundwater and surface water quality within the assessment area and compile a baseline datasets to support the development of draft site-specific water quality guidelines
- Assess mechanisms impacting groundwater resources (directly or indirectly):
 - GAB extraction to support development (indirect impact)
 - Dewatering/ ingress of hydrostratigraphic units overlying the target host rocks (i.e., alluvium + Rolling Downs Group in Julia Creek/Richmond CMZ and Karumba basin sequences and Gilbert River Formation in Croydon CMZ).
 - Existing users
- Evaluate available water balance data
- Assess and refine groundwater supply options assessment, based on the previous groundwater supply assessment undertaken as part of the Sunwater SAR.
- Complete a data gap analysis and develop Phase 2 Scope of Work.



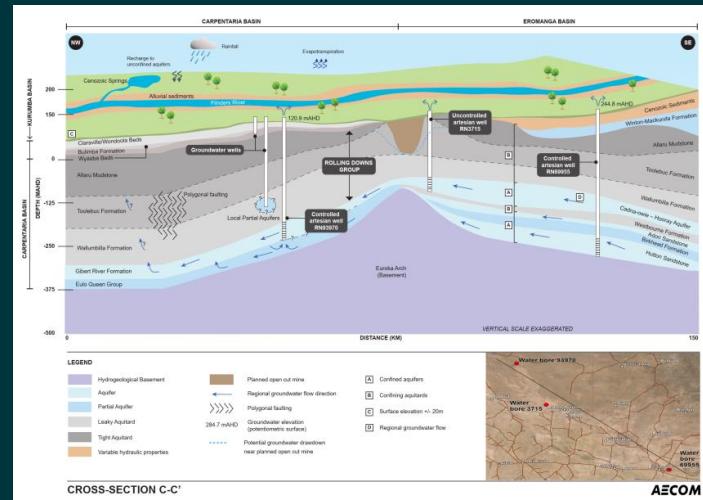
Groundwater conceptualisation – Julia Creek/ Richmond CMZ

The Julia Creek/ Richmond CMZ includes the Carpentaria and Eromanga basins of the Great Artesian Basin (GAB), which are separated by the Euroka Arch.

The target vanadium host rock, the Toolebuc Formation, is present at surface in some places or is overlain by the Allaru Mudstone or alluvial sediments.

Underlying the Toolebuc Formation are the key confined aquifers of the region including the Gilbert River Formation, Hooray Sandstone and Hutton Sandstone..

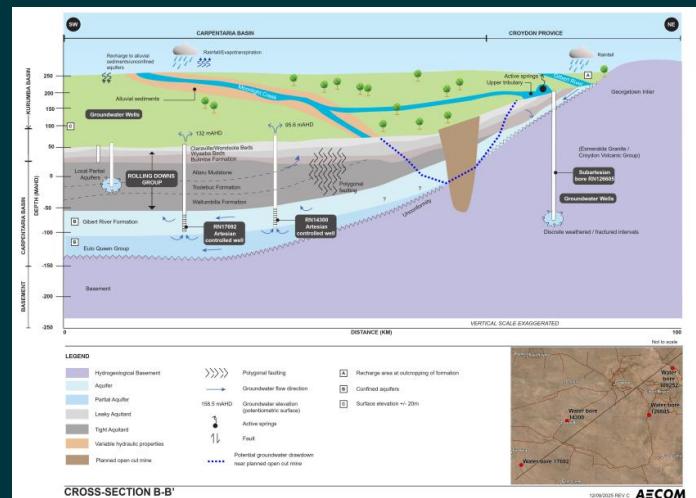
Unit name	Aquifer type	Hydrogeological unit type	Impact
Alluvial			
Flinders River Beds	Unconfined alluvial aquifer		Directly impacted
Wondooda beds	Unconfined aquifer		Directly impacted
Great Artesian Basin			
Allaru Mudstone	Aquifard	Creaceous sedimentary aquifard	Directly impacted
Toolebuc Formation	Aquifard; partial local aquifers in upper weathered zone	Undifferentiated Cretaceous sedimentary unit	Directly impacted
Wallumbilla Formation	Aquifard with partial local aquifers	Creaceous sedimentary aquifard	Potential direct impacts (possible losses from below open mining pits, which also target the fresh oil shale)
Gilbert River Formation (Carpentaria basin equivalent to the Hooray Sandstone)	Unconfined to semi-confined aquifer	Lower Cretaceous sedimentary aquifer	Indirectly impacted
Hooray Sandstone (Eromanga basin equivalent to the Gilbert River Formation)	Confined aquifer	Lower Cretaceous sedimentary aquifer	Indirectly impacted
Hutton Sandstone	Confined aquifer	Undifferentiated Jurassic sediments	Indirectly impacted



Groundwater conceptualisation – Croydon CMZ

The Georgetown Inlier is a basement structure which comprises the target host rock units including the Esmeralda Granite and Croydon Volcanic Group. The Georgetown Inlier occurs in the eastern margin of the Croydon CMZ and is progressively overlain westward by sequences of the Karumba basin and GAB sediments of the Carpentaria Basin.

Unit name	Aquifer type	Hydrogeological unit type	Impact
Karumba basin			
Claraville Beds	Unconfined aquifer (partial aquifer, where sandy facies occur, often aquicard)	Tertiary to Quaternary sediments	Directly impacted (if overlying target graphite deposits); Indirectly impacted (if overlying target graphite deposits)
Wyzaiba Beds	Partial aquifer / leaky aquicard	Tertiary sediments	Directly impacted (if overlying target graphite deposits)
Bulimba Formation	Unconfined to semi-confined alluvial aquifer	Tertiary sediments	Directly impacted (if overlying target graphite deposits) – potential for indirect if used for water supply
Carpentaria basin			
Allaru Mudstone	Aquicard	Cretaceous sedimentary aquifer	Directly impacted (if overlying target graphite deposits)
Toolebuc Formation	Aquicard, partial local aquifers in upper weathered zone	Undifferentiated Cretaceous sedimentary unit	Directly impacted (if overlying target graphite deposits)
Wallumbilla Formation	Aquicard with partial local aquifers	Cretaceous sedimentary aquifer	Directly impacted (if overlying target graphite deposits)
Gilbert River Formation	Unconfined to semi-confined aquifer	Lower Cretaceous sedimentary aquifer	Directly and indirectly impacted
Eulo Queen Group	Confined aquifer	Undifferentiated Jurassic sediments	Indirectly impacted
Esmeralda Granite	Partial aquifer in weathered / fractured zones		Directly impacted
Croydon Volcanic Group	Partial aquifer in weathered / fractured zones		Directly impacted



Water supply options and volumes – Julia Creek/ Richmond

Water supply options for Julia Creek/Richmond assessment area were refined based on previous options presented as part of the SAR (2024). The water supply assessment identified that groundwater will require conjunctive use with surface water to meet water supply demands.

1. Water Savings under the GABORA Water Plan (uncontrolled bores / bores with open drains)
2. Trading / purchase of existing entitlements (maximum of 200 ML/year from the Gilbert River Formation/ Hooray Sandstone and 4,500 ML from the Hutton Sandstone based on modelled cumulative drawdown to GDEs)
3. Unallocated GAB groundwater release from the State Reserve
4. Unregulated alluvial extraction under the Gulf Water Plan 2007
5. Managed Aquifer Recharged (considered to support pressure recoveries not as supply option)

Source / water take opportunity	Comment	Volume (ML/year)
Uncontrolled bores	Number of uncontrolled bores requiring capping	3,022 ML/year (30%) 6,043 ML/year (60%).
Open drains	Piping required to limit losses	560 ML/year (30%)
New bore/s	Gilbert River Formation/ Hooray Sandstone	200 ML/year
New bore/s	Hutton Sandstone	4,500 ML/year
Increase entitlements	Hutton Sandstone	1,500 ML/year
Purchase existing Hutton Sandstone entitlements	Existing Hutton Sandstone entitlements within the assessment area ~2,340 ML/year.	Purchase 40% (936 ML/year)
Transfer entitlements into the Hutton Sandstone	Existing volumes 16,183 ML/year 5% (809 ML/year)	1% (161 ML/year) 5% (809 ML/year)
Unallocated water from the State Reserve	16,400 ML/year Previous volume available	Hooray Sandstone (1,545 ML/year) Hutton Sandstone (1,545 ML/year)
Unregulated alluvium	Annual recharge volume was estimated between 103,300 ML/year (1 mm recharge) and 1,033,000 ML/year (10 mm recharge).	1,033 ML/year (1%) 10,330 ML/year (10%)

Water supply options and volumes – Croydon

The water supply options developed for the Croydon CMZ identified limited capacity for GAB water supply (new bores) within the assessment area due to the extensive occurrence of springs / GDEs. Preliminary mine water ingress estimates for one proponent (where GAB units overlie the target graphite rock) have been estimated to meet the mine water demand. Similarly to the Julia Creek/Richmond CMZ, groundwater will require conjunctive use with surface water.

1. Mine water ingress (where GAB units overlie the graphite host rocks)
2. Water Savings under the GABORA Water Plan
3. Unallocated GAB groundwater release from the State Reserve / entitlement relocation (maximum 200 ML/year available from the Gilbert River Formation based on modelled cumulative drawdown impacts to GDEs)
4. Unregulated alluvial extraction under the Gulf Water Plan 2007
5. Groundwater extraction prior to submarine discharge (as per Carpentaria basin conceptualisation – further assessment required).

Source / water take opportunity	Comment	Volume (ML/year)
Mine water	Mine water ingress estimates associated with the overlying Gilbert River Formation	1,100 – 1,280 ML/year (for one mine)
Uncontrolled bores	Eight uncontrolled bores requiring capping. Possible additional savings from unlined drains to be assessed	No flow data available – to be assessed as part of Phase 2.
New bore/s / Unallocated water from the State Reserve	State reserve volume ~ 500 ML for groundwater sub-area	200 ML/year
Unregulated alluvium (outside assessment area)	Annual recharge volume was estimated between 141,500 – 1,132,200 ML/year (Gilbert River) and 11,700 – 93,100,400 ML/year (Norman River).	Gilbert River 1,415 – 11,322 ML/year - (1%) 14,150 – 113,225 ML/year (10%) Norman River 117– 930 ML/year - (1%) 1,170 – 9,310 ML/year (10%)
Groundwater extraction prior to submarine discharge	Annual losses / outflow from the Carpentaria basin into the Gulf of Carpentaria estimated as 345,000 ML/year.	No potential volume estimated as part of this assessment. Further consideration / conceptualisation required.



Water – What's next?



Ben Johns

A/Director, Zone and Projects Lead

Georesources

Department of Natural Resources and Mines, Manufacturing and Regional and Rural Development

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A: Level 11, 445 Flinders Street, TOWNSVILLE | PO Box 1752, TOWNSVILLE QLD 4810

E: Ben.Johns@nmmrqrld.qld.gov.au

Millie Grant

Project Manager, part-time Monday to Thursday

Critical Minerals

Department of Natural Resources and Mines, Manufacturing and Regional and Rural Development

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E: Millie.Grant@resources.qld.gov.au

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Next steps and close

Ingrid Fomiatti Minnesma, DLGWV

Next steps

- Draft minutes for feedback
- Options Analysis / Draft RWA – March 2026
- Working Group / SAG – March/April 2026
- Technical Advisory Panel review
- Program Steering Committee endorsement
- Public consultation – anticipated mid-2026



Department of
State Development,
Infrastructure and Planning

Our ref: OUT25/6416

12 December 2025

Mr Mark Watt
Chief Executive Officer
Etheridge Shire Council
mark.watt@etheridge.qld.gov.au

Dear Mr Watt

I am writing to advise that the *Planning (Battery Storage Facilities) and Other Legislation Amendment Regulation 2025* (Amendment Regulation), which amends the Planning Regulation 2017 (Planning Regulation), took effect on 12 December 2025. The Amendment Regulation amends the regulation of battery storage facility development in Queensland's planning framework.

The changes provide consistent, State-wide requirements for battery storage facility development based on the currently defined use term in the Planning Regulation. The amendments will ensure that the social and development impacts of battery storage facility development is consistently identified, considered and managed. This will give communities the ability to be aware of and have their say about battery storage facility development through mechanisms such as public notification and third-party appeal rights.

The changes have been made following feedback from Local Government and communities about the impacts battery storage facility development can have on local communities. The changes have also been informed by key stakeholder consultation, including feedback from the Local Government Association of Queensland.

Summary of changes to the Planning Regulation:

- Applies the community benefit system to battery storage facility development with a maximum instantaneous electricity output of 50MW or more.
 - *Note: The community benefit system requires social impact assessment be undertaken and a community benefit agreement entered into before a development application can be lodged.*
- Retains the following small-scale battery storage facility development as accepted development:
 - a pad mounted battery storage device only and the total area of the premises covered by the facility is no more than 15m²; or
 - a pole mounted battery storage device only and the total volume of the device is no more than 2m³.
- Makes all battery storage facility development that is not small-scale development impact assessable.
- Makes the chief executive the assessment manager, through the State Assessment and Referral Agency (SARA), for all battery storage facility development that is assessable development, including
 - Introducing State code 27: Battery storage facility development, that includes assessment benchmarks to be assessed by SARA.
 - Amending the *Economic Development Regulation 2023* (ED Regulation) to specify that battery storage facility development is:

- accepted development in a Priority Development Area (PDA) for the purpose of the *Economic Development Act 2012* (ED Act), and
 - subject to assessment requirements under the *Planning Act 2016* (Planning Act).
- Makes pre-existing applications for material change of use of premises for a battery storage facility with a maximum instantaneous electricity output of 50MW or more, that has not been decided on the day of commencement, to be taken to be not properly made.
 - *Note: These applications will need to comply with the community benefit system before a proponent can lodge a development application with SARA.*

What do these changes mean for Local Government?

Local Government will continue to be the assessment manager for existing development applications still under assessment and not decided for a battery storage facility development with a maximum instantaneous electricity output of less than 50MW.

Local Government is no longer the assessment manager, and SARA will become the assessment manager, for the following:

- existing development applications for a battery storage facility development with a maximum instantaneous electricity output of 50MW or more, or
- any new development application for a battery storage facility development made from 12 December 2025.

Local Government may provide third party advice on development applications made to SARA.

If your Council is currently assessing a battery storage facility (output 50MW or more) application and it is not decided by 11 December 2025, the current Assessment Manager must issue the applicant an Invalid Application Notice. In accordance with legislation changes, the proponent must now satisfy the requirements of the new community benefit system and then lodge a fresh application to SARA.

This will also enable you to remove any invalid applications from your system. Proceeding to finalise assessments and issue decision notices contrary to the new legislative requirements will give rise to invalid approvals.

We also kindly ask that Local Governments email SARA at renewablesplanning@dsdip.qld.gov.au advising of any development applications that meet the 50MW or more output threshold. This will help SARA respond to enquiries regarding next steps for these proposals.

The following links to information on the Department of State Development, Infrastructure and Planning's (the Department) website may be helpful to pass on to affected applicants:

- <https://www.planning.qld.gov.au/planning-issues-and-interests/battery-storage-facilities>
- <https://www.planning.qld.gov.au/planning-framework/community-benefit>

The department will review the operation of these new arrangements over the next 12 to 18 months to ensure the provisions deliver on the intended outcomes.

If you require any further information, please contact Mallani Moloney, Manager, Planning Policy by telephone on (07) 3452 7641 or Marisa Menin, Acting Director, Planning Services, by telephone on (07) 3452 7683 in the Department, or by email at renewablesplanning@dsdilgp.qld.gov.au, who will be pleased to assist.

Yours sincerely



Peta Harwood
State Planner / Deputy Director General
Planning Group

Our reference: ACT25/6268



Department of
Education

Mr Mark Watt
Etheridge Shire Council
PO Box 12
GEORGETOWN QLD 4871

Email: info@etheridge.qld.gov.au

Dear Mr Watt

As you are aware, the Regional Arts Development Fund (RADF) is a co-investment partnership between the Queensland Government and 59 regional Councils across Queensland to boost the state's vibrant arts and cultural scene for all Queenslanders.

During the transition to multi-year Agreements in 2024, the Queensland Government approved an annual uplift to councils over the first two years of a four-year period (2024-2028), representing a five percent increase.

As stated in the original Letter of Offer, dated 24 June 2024, Arts Queensland (AQ) advised a review of the Funding Agreement 2024-2028 would occur after two years to confirm ongoing funding levels for the subsequent two years of the agreement, in accordance with the RADF Guidelines and contract Clause 4.

As such, I am pleased to offer Etheridge Shire Council ABN 57 665 238 857 (Council) a continuation of funding at the current level which is in line with parliamentary appropriations for RADF.

The total funding available to Council for the remaining funding period (2026-2027 to 2027-2028) is \$52 500. This amount will be provided in annual instalments, with the first instalment of \$26 250 (excluding GST) payable upon the endorsement of the 2026-27 forward program and budget.

As per clause 4.3 of the RADF Agreement, Council must notify AQ in writing whether it accepts the offer made by AQ. As such, this offer of funding is subject to both parties executing the enclosed Schedule 1.

If the Council accepts the offer, the enclosed Schedule 1 will be deemed to form part of Council's RADF Agreement as a replacement of the existing Schedule 1.

To accept this offer, please sign and return the enclosed Schedule 1 to your client manager, Tam Albrecht by email at tam.albrecht@arts.qld.gov.au, by **28 February 2026**.

Please note the following in relation to your RADF contract:

- 1. Tax Invoice:** Please login to [SmartyGrants](#) to upload tax invoices for the funding instalments (please note that no GST may be payable as set out in clause 16 of the Funding Agreement), ensuring the invoice includes the wording "tax invoice" and the Council's ABN, address and bank account details (BSB, account number and branch address). A tax invoice template is available from Arts Queensland if required. Arts Queensland cannot process BPAY statements.

GPO Box 1436 Brisbane
Queensland 4001 Australia
Telephone +61 7 3034 4016
Website www.arts.qld.gov.au
ABN 67 414 562 386

2. **EFT details:** Please complete an [EFT Vendor Maintenance Request Form](#) with the Council's bank details, login to SmartyGrants and upload the completed form. Payment will be made to the nominated bank account. It is the Council's responsibility to inform Arts Queensland of any changes to the bank account.
3. **Quotes for media:** Councils are to promote their 2026-27 programs using the Ministerial quotes provided at Enclosure 2 for inclusion in media releases and any other promotion of RADF programs.
4. **Reporting:** Councils are required to submit Reports as outlined in Schedule 1 using templates provided by Arts Queensland.

If you have any queries, please do not hesitate to contact your client manager, Tam Albrecht by email at tam.albrecht@arts.qld.gov.au, or on 07 4047 4908.

Yours sincerely



Tania Hall
Executive Director, Partnerships and Investment
Arts Queensland
24/12/2025

Enc.

1. Schedule 1
2. Approved Ministerial RADF quotes 2024-25 to 2027-28

16 SUGGESTION BOX
17 MEETING CLOSE